

Historic pact to end Central America wars

Region's five presidents await vital US response

From Martha Honey, Guatemala City

Central America's five presidents gathered here last night to sign an historic peace agreement to end the civil wars now raging in Nicaragua and El Salvador.

The outline steps of the pact are based on a proposal made last February by President Oscar Arias of Costa Rica.

It could end much of the killing in the region, but a lot now depends on whether the Reagan Administration is hostile or friendly to the plan.

The final document calls for the establishment within the next fortnight of a foreign ministers' commission to implement the peace plan within 90 days.

The commission will tackle

a number of thorny details on security, verification procedures, and the ending of foreign aid to the right-wing Nicaraguan Contras and leftist Salvadoran guerrillas. This means that the peace plan will

Washington — President Reagan announced yesterday that he would make a long-awaited speech to the nation on the Iran-Contra affair next Wednesday (Reuter reports). He announced the speech after making a televised statement on the economy in the White House press room.

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be fully enacted within 105 days, instead of the 60 envisaged in the original Arias proposal.

The presidents have agreed to start simultaneously the three most controversial provisions: a ceasefire in the Nicaraguan and Salvadoran conflicts, a block on US assistance to the Contras and Eastern bloc backing to the Salvadoran rebels, and a process of democratic reforms in Nicaragua.

At the start of the summit on Thursday, the leaders quickly agreed to set aside an alternative plan presented on Wednesday by President Reagan, and to concentrate instead on the Arias proposals.

The first announcement that the presidents had reached a unanimous agreement came, ironically, in Washington, from the Speaker of the US House of Representatives, Mr James Wright.

He received a call at 4.30 am yesterday from the Costa Rican Ambassador to Washington, Signor Guido Fernandez, an active participant in the peace negotiations.

Central American officials close to the summit say the plan calls for the simultaneous implementation of a ceasefire.

an end to US aid to the Contras, and beginning of Democratic reforms in Nicaragua. It also outlines a specific time-table for setting up an international verification committee, amnesty for government opponents, a schedule of elections, and restoration of press freedom, full rights to political dissent, and other civil liberties in Nicaragua.

● **WASHINGTON:** The US reacted cautiously to the news of the Central American agreement (Michael Binyon writes).

The State Department said it understood that agreement had been reached in principle, but the full details had yet to be worked out.

The White House, whose own hastily-designed plan was clearly intended as an alternative to the proposal of President Oscar Arias, appeared to hope yesterday that the final outcome could still include elements of the US plan.

"We won't prejudice conclusions. We'll wait and see what the outcome is," said spokesman Mr Marlin Fitzwater. The swift announcement from Central America appears to have taken Washington by surprise, and puts the Administration in a difficult position. President Reagan had to be pressed to make as many concessions as he did in seeking a negotiated settlement in Nicaragua, and it will be difficult for him to swallow the Arias plan without the guarantees of democracy in Nicaragua that he is calling for.

If he does not welcome and embrace the agreement, he will be accused of having put forward his own initiative simply as a ploy to persuade Congress to vote for more funds for the Contras next month. But if he does agree to the plan, conservatives here will be furious that the Contras have not had a say

Pakistan on road to history



Striking a blow: Javed Miandad hitting John Emburey for six at the Oval yesterday.

Miandad's 260 makes series safe for tourists

By Alan Lee

Pakistan's first cricket series victory in England was confirmed in all but the formalities at the Oval yesterday when their senior players banished any logical possibility of defeat in the final Cornhill Test match.

Javed Miandad, 131 not out overnight, almost doubled his score and batted more than 10 hours for 260, making him only the seventh batsman to record four Test double centu-

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ries. Further centuries came from Salim Malik and Imran Khan, the captain in his final Test, as Pakistan amassed 616 for six, their highest score against England.

Pakistan, 1-0 ahead in the series, now seem completely safe, but Imran remained cautious last night. He said: "I have played too long to make any brave statements about it being over yet."

Imran's 118 was his fourth Test century in what he still insists will be his farewell Test. He is aware of the growing pressure from within his own team for him to stay on. But he said: "I still think the right time for me to retire is after the World Cup. That, at least, is the way I am feeling right now."

Owen supporters start fight to keep SDP title

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

Supporters of Dr David Owen swiftly launched a campaign yesterday to maintain in existence a social democratic party with him as its leader and provoked fury in the victorious pro-merger group in the SDP.

In the wake of Dr Owen's unexpected resignation after his party's vote for merger, the SDP was immediately thrown into renewed turmoil.

Mrs Rosie Barnes, the MP for Greenwich, wrote to SDP members asking them to state whether they wanted to remain members of the SDP and send donations to a "Support the SDP" fund.

She told them that Dr Owen was to continue to lead the "Campaign for Social Democracy". She spoke of continuing the fight.

Although she talked of securing an overturning of the ballot after the negotiations on merger, she also appeared to be laying claim to the title "SDP" for any new party formed if the merger does eventually go ahead.

Mrs Barnes's letter, written after a meeting on Thursday of the anti-merger members of the national committee, including Dr Owen, caused outrage last night among the SDP mergers.

Mr Alec McGivian, who organized the SDP's "Yes to

Another £7bn off shares as slide continues

By Ray Heath

Stock market prices reeled again yesterday from the unexpected one-point rise to 10 per cent in bank base rates, announced on Thursday. At one time, more than £10 billion had been wiped off the value of shares quoted on London's International Stock Exchange.

Any hopes that the dose of interest rate medicine prescribed by Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and administered by the Bank of England, might restore already declining confidence in share price values were dashed as soon as trading screens lit up.

Investors large and small moved to protect the profits they have piled up during the big bull run seen throughout the early months of the year.

As they unleashed a wave of selling orders, the *Financial Times* Stock Exchange 100 share index plunged a record 65 points to 2,196.4, extending Thursday's previous largest fall of 56 points.

At that point, the value of shares quoted on the Stock Exchange had been reduced by a further £10 billion.

Signs that the worst was over began to appear at lunchtime as the selling steadied, and the index recovered to show a 28.2 fall, but continuing nervousness about the economic indicators to be revealed next week took over again later and the market closed with it showing a 35.2 fall at 2,226.2. This represented a fall of around £7 billion in share price values.

The end of the day centred on some very negative records for British share prices. Yesterday saw the largest amount of individual deals reported to the Stock Exchange — 38,000, compared with 48,000 on Thursday.

The volume of share turnover reported during the day was 923 million, and the

112,000 price changes marked was easily the largest figure ever. The previous day's total of 104,000 was also a peak.

The 134.7 fall in the FT-SE index this week is the largest ever, as is the 130.7 fall on the two-week trading account.

The opening surge of business threatened to overwhelm Stock Exchange computers for the second day running. Price changes were being recorded up to a minute late, compared with the usual four or five seconds.

A further 100 point fall in the FT-SE 100 index could be

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needed before the present fall in share prices levels out, according to Mr Peter Thompson, an analyst at Barclays de Zoete Wedd, the broker.

Two weeks ago, Mr Thompson sent shivers round the stock market when he suggested that the end of the seven-year rise in share prices that have carried them to records was in sight.

The Chancellor's move to stop the economy overheating was felt by home owners as the Halifax Building Society announced it was scrapping plans announced two days ago to cut its interest rates from 11.25 per cent to 10.8 per cent for existing borrowers, bringing them into line with the rate for new applicants.

Government stocks took the rise in interest rates calmly. Falls were limited to around one half to three quarters of a point, and the FT Government Securities Index dropped from 86.42 to 85.94.

The rise in banks' base rates did nothing to reverse the recent weakness of sterling against the dollar.

Against the dollar it ended at \$1.5675 after 1.5750 on Thursday and 1.5910 a week ago.

Rainy summer costs fruit farmers millions

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

The wet summer has produced one of the most dismal fruit crops on record and has cost growers millions of pounds in lost revenue.

Owners of pick-your-own orchards have been particularly hard hit, facing a double-blow of poor crops and few visitors.

Professor Terry Swinburn, director of the Institute of Horticultural Research at East Malling, Kent, said some raspberry growers had lost nine-tenths of their crops. Cherries had also been badly affected since mid-July.

The director of the horticultural division of the National Farmers' Union, Mr John Malcolm, said plums had been damaged by rain, and mildew was widespread in fruit generally.

Vegetables and cereal crops have also been affected by the weather, and growers fear autumn fruit will be at risk unless there is considerably more sunshine in the next few weeks.

● The second of this year's three annual crop reports, compiled by *The Times* from farming questionnaires, will be published on Monday.

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Interim rule for Tamils

From Gavin Bell, Colombo

President Jayewardene of Sri Lanka is planning to appoint an interim administration in the troubled Northern and Eastern provinces.

Despite a partial surrender of arms by Tamil guerrillas, the fate of India's initiative to resolve the island's ethnic conflict remains uncertain.

A formidable array of obstacles has still to be overcome before a durable peace is even remotely assured in the provinces, where Tamil militants have been agitating for a separate state.

But Mr Jayewardene is convinced he can quell vociferous and occasionally violent opposition to the compromise settlement, and implement it by the end of this year.

In his first interview since signing last week's controversial accord with Mr Rajiv Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister, Mr Jayewardene told *The Times* yesterday that he intended to appoint the interim administration within a few days.

He confirmed that it was Mr Gandhi who acted to break the deadlock at the beginning of this month.

Sinhalese worry, page 7

IN PART 2

Money hints

The advice of an independent financial "expert" may not be as objective as you think, says Family Money. Pages 28-32

Portfolio

● There is £12,000 to be won today in the *Times* Portfolio Gold competition - the £8,000 weekly prize and the daily £4,000. Portfolio list, page 27, weekly check page 32.

● Yesterday's £8,000 prize, double the usual amount as there was no winner the day before, was won by a Hertfordshire reader. Details, page 3.

Exam results

Degree results from Brunel University will be published on Monday.

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Irish again reject extradition papers

By Richard Ford

A second set of documents for the extradition of an Irish embassy official is expected in Dublin within 48 hours after Sir Thomas Hetherington, the Director of Public Prosecutions, denied that there were any errors in the original papers.

The first set was returned by the Garda. It included a warrant for the extradition of Mr Kevin McDonald, who it is alleged was involved in selling passports. The papers, for Mr McDonald's extradition from the Irish Republic to England, were sent back after the Garda claimed to have discovered factual discrepancies in affidavits.

It is understood that the extradition warrant was valid, but that the format in which the documents were presented caused problems. The warrant was the first issued since new extradition arrangements were introduced last year after Miss Evelyn Glenholmes, a Provisional IRA suspect, was freed by a court in the Irish Republic.

Sir Thomas said in a statement: "The Director wishes to make it clear that the Irish authorities are in agreement with him that there is no error in the content of the documents which have been sent to Dublin, and we are discussing between us the

format and presentation of these documents."

Officials said that although Whitehall was taken aback that the Irish should object to the format in which the documents were presented, the fact that the Garda pointed this out before the extradition case reached the court indicated that they were trying to be helpful. The warrant was prepared when it became clear that Mr McDonald, aged 37, was unwilling to surrender himself to British authorities after returning to Dublin last week from a visit to the United States.

Mr McDonald is believed to be staying at a house in Ashbourne, Co Meath. Mr McDonald is alleged to have sold Irish passports for up to £15,000 while employed as a passport officer at the London embassy.

Mr McDonald apparently changed his mind this week about returning voluntarily to London, and he is now to exercise his constitutional right to contest any extradition attempt, which means the matter will not be settled until early autumn.

● Four foreign nationals appeared in court in London on Thursday on charges of passport forgery and conspiracy to steal, and were remanded until September 7.

A rusty regatta waits to sail into Gulf danger

From Robert Fisk, over the Gulf of Oman, off Khor Fakkan

"This is US warship. Request you remain two nautical miles from US warships. Over." We could not even see the three American-registered oil tankers and their four US naval escorts when we announced our helicopter's presence over the dawn sea. But the voice on the radio — a clipped, East Coast accent — retained its unnecessary anonymity. "US warship. Roger. Out."

When we saw them spread across four square miles of gentle swell — the three tankers in V-shaped formation, the four warships at equidistant points around them — they looked set for a naval regatta rather than a colically

and militarily hazardous voyage up the Gulf to Kuwait.

The great foreign tankers lying across the some with steam up, others riding the tide for masters' orders, were somehow familiar, faint echoes of those great convoys that set off through the Western Approaches 46 years ago.

Given the controversy that surrounds them, the three newly-registered American vessels — the Gas King, Sea Isle City and Ocean City — are unremarkable symbols of Washington's political determination in the Gulf: ill-painted, somewhat rusty, the American flag still not affixed to their sterns. The US warships Kidd, Fox and Valley Forge lay line astern and abeam of them, another American vessel standing picket.

There was a small but sudden bright, golden light on the deck of the Valley Forge and an illumination rocket moved gracefully up over the sea, then drifted untidily back towards the waves. "This is US warship." The anonymous East Coast mariner was back in our headlights. "You are inside two nautical miles. Request you clear, over." Coming up at us from the Valley Forge was a big anti-submarine helicopter, an SSH 60B.

It came alongside, its crew staring at us from behind their dark-glass visors, a lone hand gesturing slowly in a direction away from the tiny armada. The Americans will have to place great confidence in the helicopter in the coming weeks as it flies up to 200 miles in front of its frigate, cradling sonar devices, sending its own radar

images back to the unseen mother ship.

There was an element of theatre about it all, this neat little configuration of high-riding, empty tankers and their grey escorts, lying in the hot sea.

Around 9 o'clock a sleeker warship with a long, flat funnel and Exocet missile launchers on her decks, sailed slowly across the rear of the tiny convoy. A British frigate of the Armilla patrol — probably HMS Active — keeping the sort of discreet distance from America's latest political gamble that Mrs Thatcher would approve of, at least one nautical mile from the nearest American ship. No more, it seemed, than a friendly observer.

Gulf diplomacy, p6
Letters, page 9

Jaywick 1550

British-built cars are back with 50% of home market

By Daniel Ward, Motor Industry Correspondent

For the first time in almost a decade, more than half the new cars bought in Britain have been built in the UK.

The precise figure for the year to July is a 50.08 per cent share of the market for UK-built models.

There are no imported models among the top 10 best selling models. But there is increasing confusion among car buyers over which models are British.

Vauxhalls and Fords built on the Continent are accepted as home products and Japanese and French models produced in UK car plants are still judged to be foreign.

By the end of the year a Nissan Bluebird built in Sunderland will have a higher UK content by value than the rival Vauxhall Astra and Cavalier models.

The Vauxhalls are widely accepted as "British" by fleet car managers who buy half of all new cars sold in Britain. But the Nissan will have a British-made engine and gearbox while the Cavalier's engine is imported from Australia or Brazil and the gearbox is Japanese.

Peugeot models built at Ryton, Coventry, from largely French components still achieve a 65 per cent UK content because car makers are able to include everything from labour costs to rates and

toilet paper when determining the British share of the ex-factory value. Without a single British component, a car built in a UK factory could claim a 48 per cent UK content.

The top 10 best selling models for the first seven months of 1987 range from being almost totally British to just half home made.

Company car drivers have been given increasing freedom to choose foreign cars as the

UK's best selling new cars with their percentage of UK content

1	Ford Escort	83
2	Ford Fiesta	70
3	Ford Sierra	83
4	Austin/MG Metro	97
5	Vauxhall Cavalier	50-55
6	Vauxhall Astra	50-55
7	Ford Orion	83
8	Austin/MG Montego	95
9	Rover 200 series	82
10	Austin/MG Maestro	95

UK content by ex-factory value (per cent)

tax burden employees have to pay for driving a car supplied by an employer has risen. Company cars in large fleets account for more than half the 1.88 million new cars registered each year.

The executive car sector is dominated by German-built cars, with the imported Ford Granada and Vauxhall Carlton first and third. The Swedish Volvo is the second best selling model in the class,

while the Rover 800 is back in fourth place.

A new car's nationality is increasingly difficult to determine. One in five Ford Fiestas, Escorts and Sierras are built on the Continent, all Vauxhall Novas come from Spain as do a number of Japanese Suzuki jeeps.

Conversely all Honda Legend executive models are built by Austin Rover at Cowley, with several thousand smaller Honda models being produced alongside Rovers at Longbridge.

As the car industry becomes more international, Ford has said that it is not possible to make every model in each important market. Britain will soon make most of Ford's petrol and diesel engines for the company's European car plants.

Ford aims to build 75 per cent of the new models sold in Britain this year with the Ford badge at the Dagenham and Halewood plants, a performance not bettered for 10 years. It is seven years since Vauxhall reached the target it has set itself this year of a 70 per cent UK share of sales.

The substitution of British-built cars for imports and record exports of Jaguars and Range Rovers in 1987 should help reduce the country's rising motor industry trade deficit, which rose last year from £2.7 billion to £3.9 billion.

GCE boards deny head's charges

By Sarah Thompson, Education Reporter

Examination boards yesterday attacked an independent school head for making "unfair" comments about the number of O level and A level candidates whose papers are wrongly marked.

At least 10 per cent of the papers regraded each year after requests from schools or parents are given a higher grade than at first.

Mr Martin Rogers, Chief Master of King Edward VI Boys' School in Birmingham and chairman of the Headmasters' Conference (the public schools' "trade union"), has said that thousands of pupils either fail or get a lower grade than they deserve because the boards make errors in marking and do not check papers carefully enough when they are asked to do so by schools and parents.

He said yesterday: "For every paper that is regraded after a request, there must be five others which should be regraded."

"When a result is obviously suspect, the boards will remark the papers at a fee of around £20, but in my view this process should produce far more upgradings than it does. The boards are too proud to admit they make errors."

Three years ago the top History A level group at King Edward VI Boys' School were all given C, D and E grades when their teachers confidently expected them to scoop up nothing but As and Bs.

"We knew all the grades were wrong, judging by the past performance of the group of boys and their teachers," Mr Rogers said. "We sent the

whole group back to the Joint Matriculation Board for re-marking, and only two boys were marked up a grade.

"Every school is familiar with this experience. The boards need to be far more careful. A lot of people's futures depend on them."

Mr Colin Vickerman, secretary of the JMB, said: "Mr Rogers' comments are very unfair. We are not obliged to re-mark papers; it is a service we provide on request. Mr Rogers has no justification in suggesting that there is some kind of gigantic smokescreen."

Between 10 and 15 per cent of scripts are double checked either as part of a standard sampling system to check the performance of individual examiners, because they are borderline cases or because the examiner is new.

The Associated Examining Board has dropped the "borderline checking" system, however.

Mr George Turnbull, its spokesman, said that such a system meant one set of criteria being applied to those papers and another to those which fall between the grade borders.

He added: "The GCE examining system is the best assessed system I know of. I am very worried that Mr Rogers is making his statements without revealing where he is getting his information."

"If for every re-graded paper five others should have been graded up, pre-ably five others should have been graded down as well."

Healing is cleaner by mud pack

By Jill Sherman, Social Services Correspondent

Patients treated in the spa towns of Harrogate, North Yorkshire, will no longer benefit from the traditional process of having their arthritic joints bathed in local mud.

The Royal Bath Hospital, which specializes in rheumatology, has decided to abandon the messy system of collecting mud from fields near by and wrapping it into towels. Cheaper, odorless, commercially packed mud will be used.

The hospital has promised to continue its practice of spraying patients down with Vichy water and giving them a back massage, although this too may soon be under review. For more than 60 years the thick dark mud, called Harlow Car Gardens, heated in a boiler and then spooned into mud pies.

The steaming mud was then rolled into towels to form a poultice that was pressed on to the painful area.

Mr Peter Hill, general manager of Harrogate hospital, said that no other health district was using the old method. "Instead of using real Harrogate mud we will use an alternative that the majority of hospitals use. It is at least as effective."

Mrs Nancy Goldthorpe, a physiotherapist, said that staff working at the hospital were delighted with the change.

"It will be much less messy and quicker, and therefore save money. The patients might be upset but they will understand that the new packs used for heat treatment are just as good at relieving pain."

Tunisia blast victim tells of ordeal

By Kerry Gill

Miss Helen Sirocki, whose right foot was amputated after the Tunisian hotel bombing last Sunday, spoke yesterday about her ordeal.

She said she had just got up to dance with her two friends when the explosion occurred.

"I thought it was a speaker. I looked at my foot and my foot was hanging off. This man came over and tried to strap it back."

"I did not think it was mine. I just lay there and waited for help."

Miss Sirocki, aged 28, was then put on a stretcher and taken to hospital.

Speaking at Ayr County Hospital, her voice barely audible, she said she was determined to return to as normal a life as possible.

"I will be able to get out and about. I am not going to give in to it. I have my own life to lead and if I slip back and do nothing I will just lie there."

Miss Sirocki, who lives with her widowed mother in the Ayrshire town of Maybole, said:

Asked what she thought about the bombing and the people who had done it, she replied: "I just think it is stupid that the innocent should suffer."

Miss Sirocki said she had been well treated in the Tunisian hospital and, accompanied by Staff Nurse Sylvia Clark, she told the Press yesterday: "Sometimes I get a burning feeling in my leg. All the time my mother is really worried about me."

Mr Douglas Brown, consultant surgeon at Ayr County Hospital, said Miss Sirocki was still drowsy after an uncomfortable night.

Mr Brown said that the Tunisian ambassador to Britain, Mr Hamadi Khouni, would visit Miss Sirocki in hospital today.

Fundamentalists' rise, page 6

Circles back again in UFO country

By Andrew Morgan

Unexplained symmetrical circles have reappeared in cornfields near the Westbury white horse in Wiltshire, close to celebrated prehistoric sites and the scene of many a UFO sighting.

The circles were first seen seven years ago and appeared every 12 months in the same fields, near Salisbury Plain, until last year when they were absent. This year, on cue, they are back with a vengeance, confounding any rational explanation.

The most concentrated group is on farmland belonging to Mr Peter Gale and his

wife, Angela. The most prominent circle has a diameter of 25 yards, with four smaller circles around it.

The corn has been crushed flat with the tautness of thatch and it has not escaped residents that the shape resembles an H G Wells spacecraft.

Mrs Gale said: "I suppose it could be a practical joke, with people using ropes, but no footprints have trodden down the corn elsewhere. It seems a freak of weather is more likely, but families have been here for generations and nobody saw the circles until 1980."

More mystery surrounds the circle on the land of Mr

Geoff Cooper, where a flawless shape has appeared on the north side of the Bratton Westbury road.

Mr Cooper's circle is particularly special because the grain has been crushed in an anti-clockwise direction.

Mr Cooper, aged 50, used to have several circles each year but he sold the most prolific circle land to the Gale family. Mr Cooper said: "At first, we complained to the Army because we thought the helicopters were doing it on exercise. But they sent an expert round and he said a helicopter could only make that shape if it was flying upside down and stationary."

Mr Cooper listed local theories: herds of hedgehogs rotating in unison, with approximately 40,000 required; rutting deer, sadly out of season; pranksters who, inexplicably, missed out last year; or a freak of the weather.

Mr Bob Moger, aged 40 and farming adjoining land, has been confronted with a circle for the first time. He remains stamped. "In Africa, they call minor cyclones 'dust devils' but they suck up straw while the forces in Wiltshire are crushing", he said.

"The only safe comment is that little green men are not behind it."



Simple pleasures: Mrs Taylor reading cards from well-wishers after her sight was restored at Derbyshire Royal Infirmary.

Blind wife sees again after 40 years

By Howard Foster

Mrs Judy Taylor, who has had her sight restored after 40 years, yesterday described her reaction when she saw her husband and two sons for the first time.

"They were almost exactly as I had imagined. My husband was handsome and the boys good-looking. It was one of the most emotional moments of my life", Mrs Taylor said. She found she could see again when nurses removed bandages from her eyes a few days ago after a cataract operation.

Although she had been told there would be no hope of restoring her sight since she went blind at the age of nine, she agreed to an operation to remove the deep-seated cataract in one eye.

The first hint that she could see again came when white-coated figures passed in front of her in the ward of her hospital in Derby.

Mrs Taylor, a teacher aged 49, said: "Everyone burst into

'Heaven knows what I must have looked like in a mini-skirt'

tears when I said I could see."

Last night her parents visited her. They are in their 70s but were only in their 30s when their daughter was last able to see them.

"I somehow knew how my family would look, but I just cannot come to terms with the way people's faces change as their expressions alter. To see my husband smile is something quite wonderful", Mrs Taylor, of Mount Pleasant Drive, Belper, Derbyshire, said.

When she was growing up in post-war Britain, Churchill was the dominant political figure. Rationing was in force and she describes her last visual memories as being drab ones.

"I can remember steam

trains as being beautiful things. The concept of the 125 high-speed train is strange. I cannot imagine how it will look to me. In the same way, I cannot conceive of what a helicopter or a jumbo jet looks like.

"One of the first things I should like to look at is Concorde. To me it is a loud noise but I have never seen its sleek lines.

"During the fifties and sixties I regarded myself as someone who had a keen fashion sense. I couldn't see what teddy boys wore or what flower-power clothes looked like, but I did wear trendy things myself. I have felt the clothes and, sometimes the hairstyles, but it will be fascinating to see them."

She is expected to have a second operation to restore the sight to her other eye in the next eight weeks.

Few admit influence of TV violence

By Ruth Gledhill

Television crime series evoke violent feelings in just 4 per cent of viewers, according to a report to be published by the Independent Broadcasting Authority later this year.

An IBA research department survey was completed by 3,000 people and only a small minority — representing about a million people in Britain — said they felt violent after watching programmes such as *Juliet Bravo* and *Dempsey and Makepeace*.

Nearly half of the people questioned failed to respond to the statement "Sometimes I

can feel quite violent after watching crime programmes". Of the 1,800 who did respond, 4 per cent agreed with the statement.

An IBA spokesman said: "This does not mean that people go out and act on these feelings. Sometimes I feel quite violent after reading certain newspapers but I do not have to act on those feelings."

"It is no different to reaching for a box of tissues when a character dies in a soap opera. We would be more concerned if television evoked no emotional response."

"It came as no surprise to us that an exciting adventure programme should evoke an emotional response."

"It is important to remember that 96 per cent did not agree that they felt violent after watching crime programmes."

The report, *Violence on Television - What the Viewers Think*, by Mr Barrie Gunter, head of research at the IBA, contradicts opinion poll results which have indicated that 90 per cent of viewers believe there is too much violence on television.

Most people in the sample regarded the popular British and American crime series as "harmless entertainment".

Mrs Mary Whitehouse, of the National Viewers' and Listeners' Association, has written to the IBA.

Mrs Whitehouse says the IBA report "raises a fundamental and unavoidable challenge to all those involved in television".

She says that "for even one person to suffer adversely as the result of television violence is totally unacceptable". She has written in similar terms to the BBC.

Portfolio Gold

A tropical trip is so tempting

A school librarian from St Albans, in Hertfordshire, is the outright winner of the £8,000 prize in the Portfolio Gold competition.

Mrs Mary Caiger, of Spring Road, Kinsbourne Green, Harpenden, started entering Portfolio on its first day and, apart from holidays, has played ever since. It is the first time she has won any competition.

Mrs Caiger intends to discuss with her husband, Bert, and her teenage sons, Andrew, Philip and Robin how best to spend the money.

But it seems a holiday is most likely as the family did not go away last year.

"I think the West Indies would be high on our list. I wouldn't mind where, as long as it was hot and quiet and there was an isolated beach. If there is any money left, we will probably put it towards decorating the house", she said.

"I have been so diligent in entering the competition and never become disheartened when I saw people winning it for the fourth time."

Readers can obtain a Portfolio Gold card by sending a stamped addressed envelope to: Portfolio Gold, The Times, Blackburn, BB1 6AJ.

Driver jailed

Steven Gill, of Bromsgrove, West Midlands, was jailed for 18 months yesterday after he admitted causing the death by reckless driving of his girlfriend aged 21. He zig-zagged across a dual carriageway at 100 mph before crashing into a tree.

No-go lights

Police had to switch off newly-installed traffic lights and direct motorists by hand after the new arrangement caused tailbacks up to a mile and a half on the A10, A47 and A17 at King's Lynn, Norfolk, yesterday.

Death charge

Detective Sergeant James Haddon has been suspended from duty and charged with drinking and driving and causing death by reckless driving after a crash in which Mr Frank Gerard, of Newick, East Sussex, was killed.

Baby dumped

A new-born girl was in intensive care in the Prince Charles Hospital, Merthyr Tydfil, South Wales, last night after being found in a plastic bag dumped on waste ground in nearby Penrelech.

Hospital shut

A hospital at Rainsworth, Nottinghamshire, with 48 psychiatric patients is closing this weekend because mining subsidence has damaged walls and shifted floors.

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TODAY, THURSDAY, AUGUST 6, 1987

WOULD YOU BUY A USED CAR FROM THIS MAN?

MILITANT-turned-model Derek Hatton is planning to expand his capitalist empire.

The Left-wing ex-deputy leader of Liverpool Council wants to open a new business in the centre of the city. It will include a showroom for selling used cars.

His plan is likely to be accepted, but Council and

Militant Hatton set for Arthur Daley deal



MILITANT CAPITALIST: Left-winger Derek Hatton with his BMW car

disqualified from the council. started the firm after he was redundant.

president of

him for many years. I know the fine of work he is in and knew the building space was there. We thought it would

that site cl-

the Labour movement

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Greater role in education earmarked for industry

By Sarah Thompson, Education Reporter

Employers are to be given an important role in controlling courses, staff and the budgets of further education colleges, the Government announced in a consultative paper issued yesterday.

The Government has already proposed to take polytechnics and larger colleges out of the control of local authorities and to fund them by direct grants from the Department of Education and Science. It has now set out in detail its plans to reduce to little more than a strategic planning role local authority control over 400 smaller further education colleges.

Local authority representation on the governing bodies of these colleges, which cater for more than 1.8 million students, is to be cut from more than half to one-fifth. Under the new Education Bill to be put to Parliament this autumn, at least half the governors will in future be chosen from local business, industry, the professions and other employers and employment interests, including trade unions.

These are, the consultative paper says, the groups "with the strongest interest in the quality of the institution's provision". Colleges will benefit from a wide range of experience and expertise.

Local authority nominees would be excluded from holding the chairmanship of the governing body, and, the consultative paper says, "it would not be appropriate" for members of neighbouring local authorities to hold the chair.

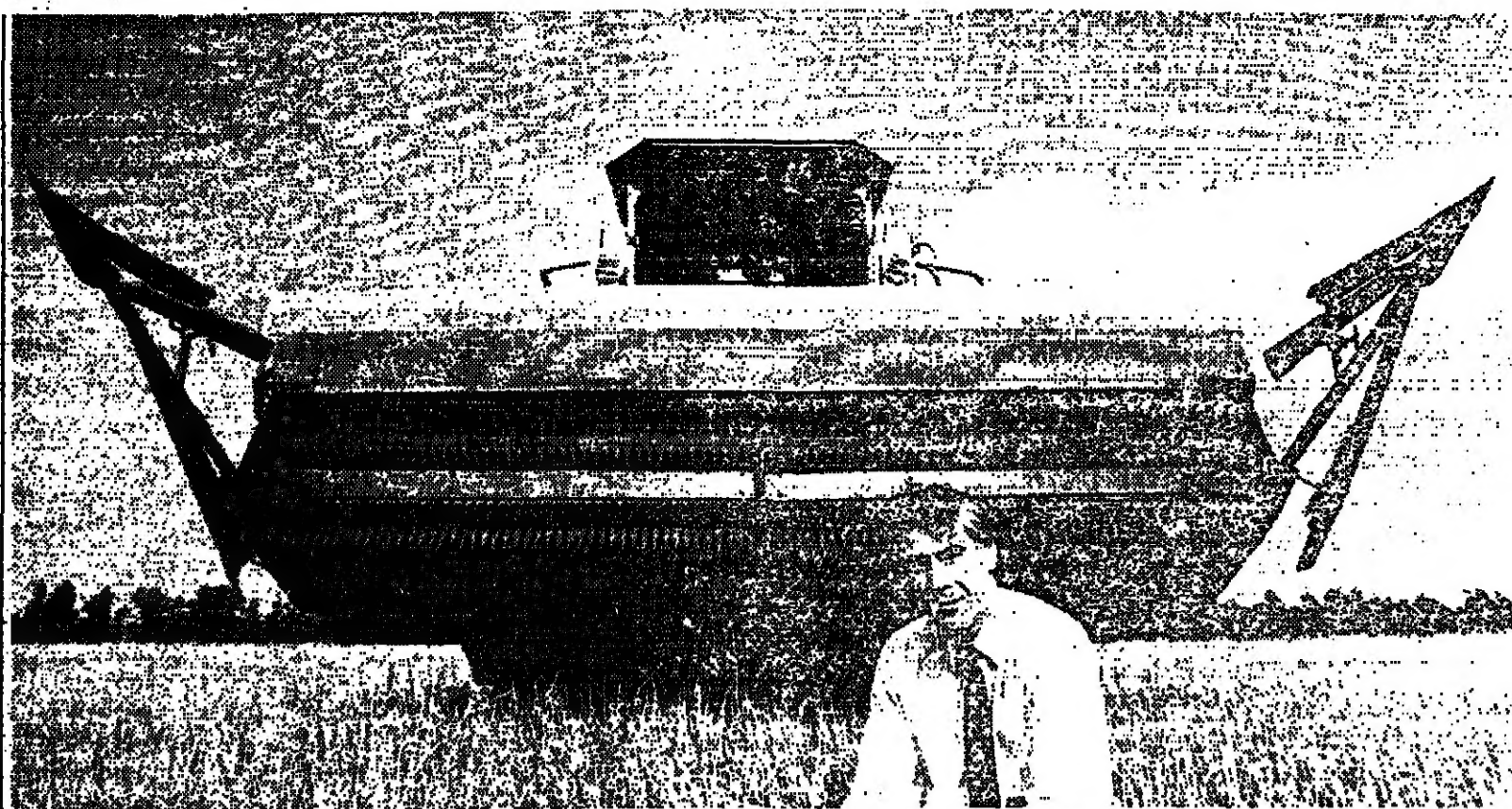
One of the most radical changes involves new powers to governors to select and dismiss staff.

The Department of Education and Science expects these governors to meet at least once a month and to have control of planning decisions delegated to them by the local authorities, which are asked to present plans for devolving financial control of the college budgets on similar lines to those already proposed for schools. Some governors will need training in financial management.

Some adult education centres may also come within the scope of proposals for financial delegation, and the Government is leaving the decision as to the suitability of individual centres to the local authorities. Mr Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for Education and Science, is, however, retaining powers to order authorities to delegate financial control to an establishment if he sees fit.

The proposals come after a working party report by officials of the Department of Education and local authority associations which concluded that further education colleges would be far more efficient if governing bodies and principals were "free, subject only to essential local authority controls, to spend their budgets in ways which they judge will best meet agreed targets and objectives".

Ministers hope that the new proposals will make colleges far more responsive to local employment needs — governors will have powers to disperse money on other areas, although they will have to justify their decision to the local authority in the following year's budgetary review.



Mr Oliver Hale, whose team of agricultural researchers developed the combine header stripper that looks set to reap world-wide sales.

Combining speed and efficiency

World-wide sales could be won with a harvesting machine developed by British engineers to double the speed of grain gathering.

The stripper header replaces the traditional cutting gear at the front of combine harvesters, which can normally work at only a few miles an hour to ensure 99 per cent of the grain is collected.

Instead of taking in the whole crop and threshing it inside the vehicle, the stripper header takes off just the grain,

leaving the stalk behind.

Through the British Technology Group, which owns the rights to the invention, Britain stands to lead the field in this farming development, which is undergoing tests in the south of England. It has already attracted interest from Canada, the United States and Russia.

The breakthrough by a team headed by Mr Oliver Hale at the Agricultural and Food Research Council near Silsoe, Bedfordshire, came after three years of research.

Harvesters using the stripper header will work at more than twice the speed of traditional machines. Farmers will also reap the benefits of being able to start gathering crops several days earlier than normal, and for longer hours, as operations no longer depend on the condition of both the stalk and the grain.

British Technology has granted a licence to the Suffolk agricultural machinery company, Shelbourne Reynolds Engineering, to develop a commercially viable stripper.



How the machine works (Photographs: Mark Pepper).

Disabled couple's son stays in care

A boy aged one month, taken from his mentally handicapped parents at birth because of fears that they were incapable of looking after him, is to remain in council care in Wolverhampton until his future is decided by a High Court judge in November.

His parents, who may not be identified, will have frequent access to their son in the interim, Mrs Justice Heilbrunn ruled in the Family Division of the High Court in London yesterday.

Court praise

A community relations policeman was praised for his "extreme bravery" by a judge at the Central Criminal Court yesterday. Insp Stephen Reynolds, aged 41, defused an "explosive" situation when he dissuaded a former soldier, Michael O'Neill, from stabbing a lodger at a central London hotel. O'Neill was jailed for 10 months.

Hawk brood

A goshawk, East Anglia's rarest bird of prey, has successfully raised a brood in Thetford Forest, Norfolk, after a round-the-clock watch was kept on the nest by wardens. Two pairs attempted to breed but one of the nests was robbed last April.

T-shirt outcry

The British Hedgehog Preservation Society yesterday condemned a new craze for T-shirts depicting squashed hedgehogs. The T-shirts, showing splattered animals lying over a bloodstained tyre track, are being worn in Cardiff.

Cliff fall death

Mrs Irene Creber, aged 71, the wife of a former Devon County Council chairman, died yesterday from head injuries after she fell 30 ft on Thursday from a cliff top as she tried to stop her pet dog straying near the edge.

Nuclear start

Nuclear reprocessing at Sellafield is expected to restart at the weekend. British Nuclear Fuels said yesterday, after an accident on Sunday when a hoist lifting fuel rods failed.

Stag shortage is threat to sport

By Kerry Gill

A substantial increase in Scotland's deer population poses a serious threat to the economy and jobs in the Highlands, the Red Deer Commission said yesterday.

The commission, based in Inverness, has called for estates to cull more kinds and allow stags to grow to maturity.

The imbalance between the sexes is in danger of getting out of control, the commission's secretary, Mr Norman McCulloch, said.

At the last census taken in 1986, there were 155,000 hinds and only 83,000 stags. The total number of deer in Scotland, including calves, is now 290,000.

Deer estates, however, rely on sportsmen — many from Germany, Italy and the United States — to provide them with a good seasonal income.

A German hunter may be prepared to pay £150 for a mediocre stag, but is interested only in the head as a trophy. The estate keeps the carcass, worth a further £150 for the venison.

"Financially, this is of great benefit to the community if enough stags are available", Mr McCulloch said. "The situation over the past 10 years has changed. Mature stags have been over-killed."

"Not all, but some estates are going for the younger males, which means stags are in short supply", he said.

The commission is now

trying to persuade estates to kill hinds for their venison.

"If there are not enough stags, stalkers' jobs are imperilled as estate revenue falls. Mr McCulloch estimated that there were about 500 stalkers' jobs in the Highlands — a significant number in a sparsely populated region."

It is estimated that several hundred jobs have been lost since the Second World War.

"Stalkers tend to live in the more remote places and the loss of a stalker and his family adds to the general rural depopulation."

It is believed that during the 1984-85 season about 14,000 stags were killed out of a total cull of about 42,000.

The increase in hinds has also forced many stags to seek food in the lower glens, trampling and eating their way through newly planted forests and farmland.

Many of these stags are shot by farmers — perfectly legal if the farmer can claim the animals have been causing damage on his property. In theory a deer farmer can claim compensation but, in reality, Mr McCulloch said, this was very difficult as deer are technically wild.

With proper estate management, Mr McCulloch said, the number of stags in Scotland could be doubled, more people would come for the sport, estates would gain more income, and jobs would be safeguarded.

Lighthouse economies hit trouble

By Rodney Cowton, Transport Correspondent

Proposals for streamlining the provision of lighthouses and other navigational aids around the coasts of England and Wales have run into heavy criticism from port organizations.

Trinity House, which is responsible for navigational aids, announced plans on Tuesday to take five lighthouses and 58 other aids out of service, and to transfer responsibility for 139 to local port authorities.

The director of the British Ports Association, Mr Nicholas Finney, said: "Our members fail to see how a proposal to cut Trinity House's responsibility for lighthouses by one third can be matched by only a £1.5 million reduction in Trinity House's revenue budget of £28 million."

"Such a substantial rationalization should carry with it considerable savings for port users, and it is by no means clear to us that this will be the case. We will be looking for much greater savings in staff and other overhead costs."

He said there had been a complete lack of consultation with the port authorities to which Trinity House was proposing to transfer the navigational aids. The Port of London Authority was particularly badly affected by the proposal, and was considering the legality of such changes without adequate compensation from the General Lighthouse Fund.

The PLA said Trinity House appeared to be trying to divest itself unilaterally of long-standing statutory responsibilities as a lighthouse authority.

The proposals for the Thames estuary seemed not to provide economies, but simply sought to transfer responsibility from Trinity House to the PLA without funding.

British shipping and port interests have also been campaigning against the fees they pay for navigational aids.

Judge aims to ground air club's plans

By Andrew Morgan

A circuit judge is opposing a flying club's plan to convert part of a beautiful valley into an airfield.

Judge Michael Birks, who lives in the Cuckmere valley, East Sussex, is enlisting support to prevent the Tiger Club from using 43 acres of pasture near the village of Wilmington as an airstrip.

There is a further planning application for 34 acres sloping down to the river Cuckmere, where the club hopes to build a fuel store, clubhouse and car park.

Judge Birks said: "The Cuckmere valley is a designated area of outstanding natural beauty and these aircraft would destroy the peace

and tranquillity. This is a national treasure."

"Access would be just off the A27 and the aircraft could be a distraction to passing motorists. On rally days the amount of traffic would be large and a dreadful intrusion."

Opponents claim that some rallies could attract up to 5,000 people.

The club, with 450 flying members and 10 aircraft, including two Tiger Moth biplanes, is looking for another site because the lease on its present airfield in Redhill expires this year. The Wilmington site was used as an airstrip between 1916 and 1939.

Mr Neil Jensen, the chairman, said the club's aircraft were often at rallies and the noise interference was minimal. "We are not a training school. Many of our pilots are professional and don't just flog around the area", he said.

"Wilmington can't be enlarged and so high-performance aircraft will not be permitted. I can understand the fears but they are based on ignorance."

It is believed the club hopes to lease the farmland from trustees of an estate for about £10,000 a year.

However, when 200 people attended a recent meeting, Mr Michael Piper, a farmer who has lived in the valley for 50

years, suggested buying the land and creating the Cuckmere valley environmental trust. Two promises of £5,000 gifts have already been made.

"This is a beautiful valley which attracts many people. We don't want a decision to be taken in haste", he said.

At first, planning officials at Wealden District Council were in touch with the Tiger Club's plans. But Mr Ian Kay, deputy district planning officer, said yesterday that the complexity grew as he studied the application.

"We have a very open mind. It will be a close decision when the planning committee meets on September 15."

Murderer of recluse gets life

A man was jailed for life in the High Court in Edinburgh yesterday for the brutal murder of a frail elderly recluse.

After an eight-day trial, the jury took an hour to decide unanimously that Keith McGregor, aged 29, of Westburn Gardens, Edinburgh, killed Ian Kaye, a retired Army captain, in his home in West Coat Terrace, Edinburgh, on March 25.

He was found guilty of repeatedly punching Mr Kaye, striking his head on the floor, pulling him from one room to another, kneeling or stamping on him and breaking his back then repeatedly stabbing him and cutting his throat with a knife. Mr Kaye was just under 6ft tall but weighed only 6½ stones.

The jury was also unanimous in convicting McGregor, a former apprentice butcher, of stealing the dead man's car and his cash dispenser card and then stealing £1,000 from his bank account.

The court was told that in early March McGregor was unsuccessful in his attempts to get loans from finance houses and banks. He mentioned to a friend he was going to "an old guy's house" to get some money.

AND THEN THERE WAS ONE



EXCLUSIVE: DAVID OWEN WRITES

Defiant Owen defends his decision to quit, asks for an amicable divorce and pledges that the SDP will fight on

THE SUNDAY TIMES

Better than a month of other Sundays

Lakes and rocks to tempt the tourist

By Richard Ford

It has been an uphill struggle but the number of tourists visiting Northern Ireland has increased this year in spite of the worst efforts of the Provisional IRA and an uncertain political situation.

Tourist board executives are confident that by the end of the season visitors from continental Europe will have increased for the second year in succession to a province rich in lakes, mountains and a charm long since lost in the rest of the United Kingdom.

The latest figures from the Northern Ireland Tourist Board show that in spite of indifferent weather passengers entering by sea in May rose by 6.3 per cent, and those by aircraft by 32 per cent.

Yesterday the board launched a campaign to encourage many of the tourists who visit the Irish Republic to travel north to see the Giant's Causeway in Co Antrim, billed as the eighth wonder of the world.

Large pictures of the cause-

way are to be placed at ports and airports in the Irish Republic and articles are appearing in the Aer Lingus in-flight magazine in an effort to persuade thousands who visit the south to extend their trip to the island by looking at the famous formation of basalt rocks which are listed as a World Heritage site.

Sir John Swinson, chairman of the Northern Ireland Tourist Board, said yesterday: "Our message is if you have not visited the causeway then you have not really experienced Ireland."

The causeway coast has been attracting growing numbers of Americans and continental Europeans since an interpretative centre explaining the rock formation and how the Victorians enjoyed the site was opened a year ago on the property owned by the National Trust.

Sir John admitted that the tourist board would target the Irish Republic as it was their greatest potential market and

they intended to increase the number of visitors who travelled to the north via the south from the present 44,000 to 68,000 within three years.

The board clearly recognizes that many overseas visitors and in particular Americans with a fascination bordering on desperation to prove they have Irish roots visit the south rather than the north.

They also intend to increase the number of residents from the republic who visit the north from 56,000 to 80,000 by 1990. Many of those who travel north do so for cheaper prices particularly in the shops and to use Belfast's Aldergrove airport to fly to London, and holiday resorts.

Even in Galway advertisements in shop windows this summer encouraged people to fly from Belfast rather than the south's airports at Shannon, Cork and Dublin.

Sir John said: "People who come north will find the same wealth of hospitality as we

find when we travel south."

The board's budget for the republic is to be doubled to £150,000 and extra staff is to be recruited for its office in Dublin as officials grow confident that more people can be attracted to a province which they admit will never be popular for those seeking sun and sand but can lure people seeking a specialized holiday, such as boating or fishing.

Initial reports from hotels and guesthouses in the north indicate an increase in occupancy.

Ironically the closeness of the rest of the United Kingdom to Northern Ireland and the frequent coverage of the province's troubles has meant that the board faces great difficulties in encouraging people from England to cross the Irish Sea.

But as the troubles have declined and with less frequent media reports in continental Europe officials are finding it easier to attract continental Europeans to Northern Ireland.

WORLD SUMMARY

Ethiopia facing renewed famine

Rome — Chronic drought and famine again threaten Ethiopia, according to Western food experts who have just returned from a research mission in the north of the country (Roger Boyes writes).

Specialists of the World Food Programme, a United Nations aid group based in Rome, say that there has been no significant rain since June in Eritrea or Tigré provinces. A brief rainfall in the highlands of Tigré last month provided little more than drinking water for both people and cattle. Young crops are being scorched by the heat and will almost certainly not supply enough to eat in the coming year.

"We want to alert potential aid donors to the fact that there will be major relief requirements in 1988," Mr Paul Mitchell, of the World Food Programme, told *The Times* yesterday. About 1.2 million people in Eritrea and 1.5 million in Tigré are affected. The Ethiopian Government is waging a counter-insurgency war against Eritrean rebels.

Trapeze defector

Los Angeles — The Ringling Brothers' Barnum and Bailey Circus continues its California run this week without four star performers (Ivor Davis writes). A female trapeze artist, including a mother and her 13-year-old daughter, on loan from the Romanian National Circus, have defected and are seeking political asylum.

The four successfully completed their most daring manoeuvre on Thursday when they went to a Californian Republican congressman and asked for asylum. A spokesman said that the women had planned their move because "they oppose communism and admire the way of life in America".

Prince in Majorca

Palma, Majorca — The Prince of Wales flew into Palma airport yesterday evening to join the Princess of Wales and their two children as guests of the Spanish royal family holidaying in Majorca (Richard Wigg writes). He was met at the airport by Prince Felipe, heir to the Spanish throne, and was driven to Marivent Palace, the summer home of King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia. The Princess of Wales had earlier enjoyed her first day's outing in the Spanish Royal Family's yacht.

Diplomat inquiry

Moscow — The Soviet Foreign Ministry disclosed yesterday that it had conducted a new investigation into the disappearance of Mr Raoul Wallenberg, the Swedish diplomat who helped Jews escape from the Nazis in Budapest, but that it had turned up no new facts (Mary Dejevsky writes).

Some believe that he is still alive in a Soviet camp. But a Soviet spokesman said that the new inquiry confirmed only what Moscow had told the Swedish Government in 1957: that Mr Wallenberg had died of a heart attack in a Soviet prison camp in 1947. His case is a recurrent irritant in East-West relations.

Setback for Koch

New York — Mayor Edward Koch of New York, aged 62, suffered a second seizure yesterday just as doctors believed he had fully recovered from what they diagnosed as a mild spasm of a brain artery on Thursday (Charles Bremner writes).

After he complained of dizziness and nausea doctors said yesterday that they at first suspected a stroke, but reduced their diagnosis to transient ischaemia, a relatively mild condition which reduces the supply of oxygen to the brain.

United in opposition

Sydney (Reuter) — Australia's two main opposition parties have announced the restoration of the 40-year coalition shattered before last month's election. The Liberal leader, Mr John Howard, right, said his party would project a united aggressive front with the National Party to the Labor Government of Mr Bob Hawke. Sir John Bjelke-Petersen, the National Party Premier of Queensland, will withhold immediate action.



Russia shows devices from spy train cargo

From Mary Dejevsky, Moscow

The Soviet Foreign Ministry has revealed details of what it said was an intricate plot by the Japanese and the West German authorities to undermine Soviet security.

The revelations related to the discovery in February, 1986, of a freight container being transported on the Trans-Siberian Railway that was alleged to have sophisticated listening and photographic devices concealed in an official cargo of Japanese ceramic pots.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman, Mr Gennady Gerasimov, and officials from the Soviet Customs Directorate and the Department of Foreign Trade, presented photographs of the container, and specimens of the alleged devices, at a press conference in Moscow yesterday.

Mr Gerasimov said the Japanese container firm had paid the equivalent of £318,500 for breaching international freight regulations. But, he said, there had been no satisfactory response from West Germany or Japan to the first Soviet request for an explanation, made in February, 1986. On July 21 this year, he said, Moscow had made a second protest and was still awaiting a response.

He conceded that one reason for making the affair public now was to "encourage" the West Germans and Japanese to respond to the protest and to persuade Japan to make greater efforts to find the culprits.

Mr Kampelman and the three chief American negotiators, in their turn, emphasized that yesterday's meeting had been "positive and constructive", but had not noticed such nuances.

Mr John Woodworth, deputy head of the intermediate-range missile negotiating group, said the West German Pershing simply were "not an issue in these negotiations".

The prospect appears to be emerging of the missiles becoming obsolete and fading out of the picture, by agreement within Nato, before the expiry of the five-year implementation period of the proposed missile treaty.

Mr Woodworth also underlined progress in the INF (intermediate nuclear forces) negotiations. While Moscow had often said that such and such a problem was crucial, "we have just proceeded". The issue of the Pershings had never been raised in the negotiations.

While there had been substantial progress with the joint text, he would be surprised to see it ready before next month's Washington meeting.

Mr Kampelman concluded: "As we evaluate the last 28 months, we see an unusually constructive pattern of development moving us forward. We hope the momentum will continue."

Gulf diplomatic manoeuvring

Iran may press UN for more balanced ceasefire resolution

From Robert Fisk, Dubai

With Iran's leaders still encouraging a mood of hysterical anger towards the United States, the corpses of 50 more Iranians killed in last week's Mecca riot were flown back to Tehran yesterday amid scenes of mass grief in the streets of the capital.

Tens of thousands of mourners paraded through Tehran, some of them carrying the bodies of the dead and chanting "Death to America," while leading figures in the Government continued to promise revenge against the United States for the massacre in Saudi Arabia.

This, of course, was Iran's public face yesterday, a picture of apparent resolution emphasized only by the continuation of the much publicized, but little observed, Iranian naval manoeuvres along the country's southern coast line.

Reports from the Iranian news agency, Iran, spoke of "hundreds of Revolutionary Guards Corps fast patrol boats" practising to deter US attacks, and the preparation of "remote-controlled pilotless aircraft and patrol boats packed with explosives". These are the putative weapons — quite probably not at present in existence — about which the Americans have expressed their concern in the past.

At Friday prayers in Tehran, Ayatollah Abdolkarim Mousavi-Ardebili, the Iranian Chief Justice, told worshippers that Iran's "low-

technology" warfare was superior to "all America's advanced equipment", a statement which, given the crippling of the US-flagged tanker *Bridgeton* by a simple mine last month, is not perhaps entirely without foundation. But it would be a mistake to assume that this bellicose rhetoric represents Iran's current policy towards the crisis in the Gulf.

There is, for example, considerable perplexity in Tehran as to why the United Nations cannot explore Iran's most recent initiative — to consider war reparations and a permanent end to attacks on

Nicosia — Iran test-fired one of its shore-to-ship missiles during military manoeuvres in the southern Gulf, Tehran radio said yesterday (Reuter reports). The radio, monitored in Nicosia, Cyprus, said the missile was fired on Thursday at the order of President Khamenei, who came to watch the exercises.

Iranian tankers in the Gulf as a preliminary step towards a lasting ceasefire, Iranian diplomats in the United Arab Emirates have repeatedly and publicly stressed over the past six months that, if the Arab Gulf states would stop supporting Iraq, they would have nothing to fear from Iran.

Iran's grievance against Kuwait, for example, is not that country's decision to re-register 11 of its oil tankers in the

United States; it is Kuwait's decision to allow the continued trans-shipment of arms and ammunition through Kuwait to Iraq. Some two and a half months ago, according to Iranian sources in Tehran, the Iranians questioned all the Arab countries in the Gulf about the necessity of the American reflagging, again pointing out that this would only involve Kuwait more deeply in the war. The Kuwaitis, who had already chartered three Russian vessels under the Soviet flag, remained adamant.

Where is the next Iranian initiative likely to come? Quite likely on the land battlefield with Iraq, where neither American naval power nor Arab encouragement can change the outcome of the conflict.

More probably, however, the Iranians are going to look to the UN — and particularly to its Secretary-General, Javier Perez de Cuellar — for a new formula to attach to the Security Council's ceasefire resolution, one that would involve both confrontation and an international tribunal to apportion blame for the conflict.

The same Tehran sources say that contacts are already going on with the UN on this point. All will depend, however, on whether a quite different and dangerous struggle does not, in the meantime, involve the Americans in the waters of the Gulf itself.

Letters, page 9

Tanker escort awaits helicopters

Washington (Reuter) — The US Navy has delayed further escorting of Kuwaiti tankers in the Gulf until at least next week when American mine-sweeping helicopters begin work there, defence officials said yesterday.

One official said: "The con-

voy is being delayed and probably will not be run until late next week at the earliest."

Officials said the US helicopter transport ship *Guadalcanal* left the Indian Ocean island of Diego Garcia yesterday for the Gulf carrying eight Navy minesweeping

helicopters which will clear a path to Kuwait for the tankers *Gas King*, *Ocean City* and *Sea Isle City*.

The three Kuwaiti ships are waiting outside the Gulf to hoist US flags and be escorted through the Strait of Hormuz to Kuwait.

The arms negotiations

Moscow sees hope in Shultz talks

From Alan McGregor, Geneva

Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet Foreign Minister, said yesterday there was "substantial potential" in the talks he will have in Washington on September 15 to 17 with Mr George Shultz, the American Secretary of State.

His comments followed a 34-hour meeting with Mr Max Kampelman, the US chief arms control negotiator. It has been hoped that by next month a draft treaty text on eliminating medium-range and shorter-range nuclear missiles from Europe and Asia might be almost complete.

Mr Shevardnadze, replying to questions about the sticking point of the 72 Pershing IA missiles in West Germany and under US control, repeated that "they must be eliminated".

While he enumerated the main differences between the superpowers, including the future of the anti-ballistic missile treaty, and accused the US of dragging its feet, Mr Shevardnadze was able to describe his conversation with Mr Kampelman as "substantive, interesting and businesslike, with nuances that will have to be the subject of examination".

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The arms negotiations

Arafat's picture lands editor in trouble

From Ian Murray, Jerusalem

Charges of violating Israel's anti-terrorist laws have been prepared against Mr Hanna Siniora, an affable newspaper editor in east Jerusalem and prominent Palestinian moderate.

He is in trouble for articles in his paper, *al-Fajr*, and because of an interview he gave in his office to Israeli television, which showed a picture on a wall behind him of Mr Yasser Arafat, the Palestine Liberation Organization chairman.

Mr Siniora has never made any secret of his support for the PLO as the legitimate representative of the Palestinians. Although Israeli law defines the PLO as a terrorist organization, Mr Siniora has always spoken out against violence and, in the dozens of interviews and speeches he gives, has argued that the PLO leadership itself is opposed to terrorism.

In consequence, he has until now always been acceptable to

the Israeli authorities, even though his newspaper has regularly run foul of the laws controlling the Arab press. He was one of those approved by both Israel and the United States as someone acceptable in a delegation to negotiate a solution to the Palestinian problem.

He is invariably chosen to meet visiting world leaders who want to hear the Palestinian viewpoint. Mrs Margaret Thatcher met him during her visit here in 1986. Last month he was called in by Dr Esmat Abdel-Meguid, the first Egyptian Foreign Minister to visit Israel for six years.

At the same time, Mr Siniora recently fell foul of many Palestinians by announcing in May that he was prepared to head an Arab list of candidates for the Jerusalem City Council election next year. This move was welcomed enthusiastically by Mr Teddy Kollek, the city's Jewish Mayor, although right-

wing Israeli politicians, vehemently attacked the idea.

Mr Siniora subsequently received death threats from Palestinians and his two cars were set on fire outside his home as a warning. But he intends to stand as a candidate, provided he is given legal assurance that this would not mean accepting Israeli sovereignty over east Jerusalem. This courageous decision shows Mr Siniora to be more prepared than the vast majority of Palestinians to reach some kind of peaceful compromise with Israel.

However, the strong pro-PLO line of *al-Fajr* led Mr Eliahu Haezani, a right-wing lawyer from the West Bank settlement of Kiryat Arba, to file six complaints against Mr Siniora. Mr Haim Bar-Lev, the Police Minister, told the Knesset (Parliament) before it rose on Wednesday that charges were being prepared on five of these. Apart from the TV interview, one com-

plaint involves publishing an interview with Mr Arafat, for which *al-Fajr* has already been punished by closure for a week, and reference to the PLO in a history of the Palestinians.

Mr Siniora said yesterday he had learnt what was happening only from the press, but had no reason to doubt the Police Minister. "It is all part of the business," he said philosophically. "It is discrimination," and showed double standards for the Hebrew and Arab press. We being prosecuted because we put the PLO's name in the paper. There was no security matter involved.

"We will continue to follow the same policy and I will challenge the indictment in court." His newspaper will rely on an earlier High Court judgement, saying it had as much right as the Hebrew press to publish material, provided no security risks were involved.

Lebanon's last traditional politician dies at 87

From Our Correspondent Beirut

Lebanon's former President and hardline Christian Maronite leader, Mr Camille Chamoun, died of a heart attack yesterday at the age of 87 after a long political career spent opposing Muslim demands for more power and Syria's role in the country.

Mr Chamoun, a wealthy businessman, lawyer, dip-

lomat, parliamentarian and holder of many Cabinet posts since 1938, died at a Christian east Beirut hospital.

Mr Chamoun was the last traditional politician in Lebanon. His death is expected to have an impact on the political deadlock and could have negative effects on inter-Christian relations, as he was a mediator among the moderate and hardline factions.

While President in 1958, he

used force and politics to defend the minority Maronite community and turned to the US and Israel for military aid in his fight against the Muslims, Syria and the Palestinians. He saw Israel as an ally and bought weapons from it, but his belief that it would intervene militarily to protect the Christians from Syria was repeatedly proved wrong.

Obituary, page 10

called in the US Marines to quell a Muslim revolt. Since then, he was known for his pro-Western policies and close ties with Britain, where he served as envoy in the 1940s.

Mr Chamoun was close to President Amin Gemayel, and on many occasions acted as mediator between him and the militant leader of the Lebanese Forces militia, Mr Samir Geagea.

How Tunisian regime nurtured its own fundamentalist threat

From A Special Correspondent Tunis

It would be convenient to uncover an Iranian hand behind the bombings which, only hours after the violence during this year's Haj at Mecca, injured 13 British and Italian tourists in four Tunisian holiday resorts.

Certainly the Tunisian Government felt as much. Its officials were quick to blame Islamic fundamentalists acting at the behest of "certain foreign influences". But the reality is more complex and, in all probability, more parochial.

There is a significant fundamentalist movement in Tunisia, and its influence is undoubtedly growing. The pro-Western Government of President Bourguiba, who has ruled the country since its independence from France in 1956, has acknowledged that by a ruthless clampdown on all forms of fundamentalist activity. This reached a climax in March when Tunis claimed to have uncovered a plot by a group of what it called *Khomeinists* to overthrow the Government and replace it with an Iranian-style religious state.

Western observers were sceptical. While never supposing that the activity of Iran was entirely innocent, they described the evidence the Government produced as tenuous, thin and fanciful. "There was no real proof at all. They managed to convince very few ordinary Tunisians," said one political analyst.

But the Bourguiba Government then

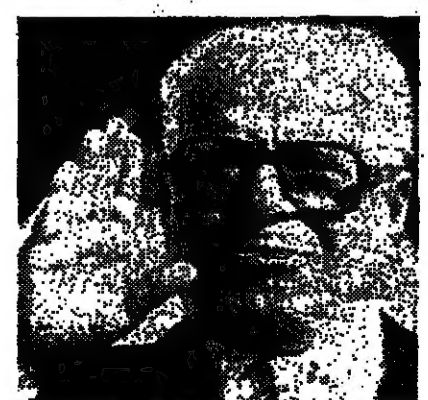
expelled all Tehran's envoys, severed diplomatic relations, and arrested about 3,000 Tunisian fundamentalists. Recently Mr Rashid Sfar, the Prime Minister, said only 300 were still held, though other sources indicated that the number still jailed is much higher. Some of the prisoners are due to be tried at the end of the month.

The fear now is that more violence is to come, particularly if death sentences are passed. And that outcome is thought likely by those who say that Mr Bourguiba harbours an intense dislike, even hatred, of the Islamic zealots. The irony is that he first fostered the growth of the fundamentalist faction, with policies in the 1970s which promoted the teaching of Islamic religious values at the University of Tunis and trebled the Government's mosque-building programme. Before then, the state had been wholly secularized — to a point, the Government even discouraged observance of Ramadan, the Muslim month of fasting.

Mr Bourguiba saw the chief threat to his regime coming from the country's Socialist and Communist parties, with their power base in the trade unions. Fundamentalism was encouraged to counter the left. The President's decision to play host to the Arab League, and to the Palestine Liberation Organization when the Israelis ejected it from Lebanon, was part of a similar balancing act

disarm critics who accused his regime of being fanatically pro-Western, especially in its relations with the Americans and French.

But the left has declined over the years under powerful restrictions which saw its newspapers close, offices mysteriously fire-bombed, trade unions emasculated, and its leaders arrested merely for assembling. Severe limitations on how it could contest general elections culminated last November by its boycotting



BOURGUIBA
Accused of harbouring dislike, even hatred, of Islamic zealots

the polls. Genuine political debate has died, too, within the ruling Parti Socialiste Destourien, which now serves largely to rubberstamp what the coterie of presidential advisers decides.

The fundamentalist movement has grown during this period. It now has five or six groups, the largest of which is the Mouvement de la Tendance Islamique (MTI), whose leader, Mr Rashid Ghannouchi, is one of those in jail.

Mr Nejib Chebbi, a lawyer representing detained fundamentalists, says that the Islamic revival initially was little more than an expression of dislike for the materialism of the Bourguiba Government since independence. "This regime has created a cultural resistance, and the MTI has been one of the most important expressions of it," he said.

"But since the Iranian Revolution, the MTI has ceased to be simply a cultural and religious force, and has started claiming a political role. From that time, it has acted as a political party with an economic and social policy. Since the early 1980s it has grown by taking advantage of all the tensions produced by the economic crisis, the social backwardness and the political problems in Tunisia."

But more exact comparisons with Iran may not be appropriate. The MTI is not calling for the full imposition of *Sharia* (Islamic doctrinal) law, but merely demanding that it should be accorded a political voice. Its leaders say said to have

significant theological and ideological differences with Tehran, including the issue of tolerance of other views.

One Western observer said: "Perhaps the crucial difference is that, though they are fundamentalists, or as they call themselves *integrityists*, they are still Sunni Muslims, unlike the Shia Iranians. In Shia, there is a far greater deference given to single men, to leaders and imams (priests). The MTI admires Iran because it has restored religious values to its society, but it is wary of the power of such leaders. It is really rather moderate for a fundamentalist body. It wants a more, rather than less, democratic society — at this stage at any rate."

The paralysis of the left has made the *integrityists* the only organized force for dissent in a country where there is presently much cause for dissatisfaction.

After decades of prosperity, the Tunisian economy is in crisis. Revenue from oil has halved in 1986 because of the fall in world prices. Income from tourism dropped about 11 per cent because of the Israeli raid on the PLO headquarters in Tunis and the US bombing of neighbouring Libya. Substantial income from Tunisians working in Libya was cut when Colonel Gadafi expelled 40,000 of them in 1985. A drought last year doubled the cost of food imports.

It is in this context that the bombings at the holiday resorts must be seen. Significantly, they came in the small

hours of Mr Bourguiba's 84th birthday, which is celebrated with widespread public announcements of a messianic fervour. They followed another explosion outside Parliament on July 24 — the anniversary of the Republic — which the authorities at the time dismissed as caused by an air-conditioner on a bus overheating.

The MTI, which maintains it is a democratic organization, has denied all responsibility. But observers believe that one of the fringe fundamentalist groups, such as Islamic Jihad, could be responsible, and have little doubt that the Government will use this as an excuse to crack down on the Movement.

In the short term, the tactic may successfully divert popular attention from the country's economic difficulties. But it could be storing up problems.

Mr Bourguiba is officially reckoned to be aged 84 (though he could be as old as 87), and seasoned observers have detected over the past 12 months a sense of *fin de régime* in the tightening repression and increasing concentration of power in his circle of courtiers.

In a CIA-funded study, two American political scientists, Richard Betts and Samuel Huntington, have looked at the political stability of 33 long-established authoritarian regimes. They placed Tunisia top of the list of their scenarios for potential instability on the death of the ruler.



Mourners carrying the flag-draped coffin of Iranian pilgrim, killed last week during the disturbances in Mecca, from funeral services held yesterday at the University of Tehran.

Mecca truth remains hidden

By Michael Dynes

After a week of bitter recriminations between Riyadh and Tehran, there is still no conclusive proof as to who was responsible for the clashes between Iranian pilgrims and the Saudi security forces at the Kaaba mosque in Mecca, which left at least 402 dead, including 275 Iranians.

According to the Saudi Arabian authorities, the clashes followed an illegal demonstration by tens of thousands of Iranian pilgrims, which is believed to have taken place along Sharia al-Malik, one of the main roads leading to the Great Mosque.

The demonstrators, carrying banners and chanting pro-Khomeini slogans, prohibited under the protocol of the pilgrimage, came up against a line of Saudi policemen and began to bombard them with a

hail of missiles. In an effort to prevent the demonstrators from breaking through the police lines, the security forces fired tear gas into the crowd, and the consequent panic caused a stampede in which hundreds of the pilgrims were crushed to death.

Saudi security officials have since claimed that they have obtained confessions from demonstrators which point to an Iranian plot to storm the mosque and proclaim Ayatollah Khomeini, the Iranian leader, as religious leader of Muslims around the world.

Not surprisingly, the Iranian version of events differs. It alleges that the Saudi police, without cause or warning, opened fire on the Iranian pilgrims at the instigation of the United States.

According to Dr Salehuddin Delsheid, head of the Iranian medical team in Mecca, the

extraordinarily high death toll was the result, not of the use of lethal gas or bullets by the Saudi security forces.

The Saudis appear to have the stronger case. A film released by the Saudi authorities of last week's clashes shows clearly that many thousands of Iranians were participating in an illegal march towards the Great Mosque.

But it is, nevertheless, a selective version of events. It does nothing to explain how the alleged stampede started, nor does it give any indication of why the death toll was so high, especially among Iranians.

There is, however, no doubt that throughout the Muslim world the deaths in Mecca will be seen through the eyes of the two sectarian traditions, regardless of the facts.

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Central America summit

Reagan snubbed as rulers agree on route to peace

From Martha Honey, Guatemala City

With unexpected ease and in an apparent snub to Washington, the five Central American Presidents have reached full agreement on their own regional peace plan. The consensus came late on Thursday night, after just one day of presidential talks.

"It's too good to be true. Every President went to bed after agreeing to a complete peace plan," said a high-level source after the summit session, which ended well after midnight.

It was very rewarding that (Nicaraguan President) Ortega and (Salvadoran President) Duarte parted by drinking together and celebrating for peace.

These two leaders represent the region's left and right political extremes, and both are facing guerrilla wars which the peace plan seeks to end.

The Presidents' and said to have "ignited" a new peace plan by President Reagan and to have agreed on a somewhat modified version of a plan drawn up by President Arias of Costa Rica.

The hastily prepared White House document was pre-

sented on Wednesday and rushed to Guatemala on the eve of the two-day summit. The intent, many here perceive, of replacing the Arias plan, but in separate public statements the five Presidents stressed that while they welcomed the Washington peace initiative, the Arias plan would be their only topic for discussion.

Summit sources say that the Presidents have agreed to implement the peace plan within 90 days. They have also agreed to begin simultaneously the three most

controversial provisions: a ceasefire in the Nicaraguan and Salvadoran conflicts, a cut-off of US aid to the Nicaraguan Contras and Soviet bloc aid to the Salvadoran rebels, and a process of democratic reform in Nicaragua.

According to these sources, the Presidents made "some changes in timing" in implementing the 10 steps of the original Arias plan.

In preparatory talks before the summit meeting, the Central American foreign ministers had reached agreement on several points, including

the issues of refugees, elections, and a reduction in the size of standing armies in the region. But the main issues were left to be resolved by the Presidents.

Conference insiders say that, although put on a back burner, the Reagan plan helped to facilitate an agreement. First, it spurred nationalist feeling, since the US was not invited to be a party to these talks. "The Presidents dug in their heels and became determined to adopt their own plans," said one political observer.

Second, the Reagan plan undercut objections being presented by the two staunchest US allies, El Salvador and Honduras. El Salvador has been insisting that an agreement include a condemnation of Nicaragua for allegedly serving as a rear base for the left-wing Salvadoran rebels, while Honduras proposed delaying for six months a cut-off of US aid to the Contras.

When the Reagan plan did not address these issues, both Honduras and El Salvador dropped their demands.



President Ortega happy at outcome of negotiations.

President Arias was quick approval for his proposals.

The rival proposals

The Reagan Plan

Ceasefire, suspension of aid, restoration of rights: As soon as possible, negotiation of an immediate ceasefire, on terms acceptable to the parties involved, subject to verification by the Organization of American States, or an international group of observers. With a ceasefire in place, the immediate suspension of military aid to the Contras by the US and a cut-off of military aid to Nicaragua by communist countries. Humanitarian aid allowed. Immediate suspension of emergency law in Nicaragua and restoration of civil rights. Establishment of a multi-party electoral commission. Within 60 days, establishment of a timetable and procedures for elections. Withdrawal of outside troops. The withdrawal of foreign military personnel and advisers, in excess of normal and legitimate needs from Nicaragua and its immediate neighbours, subject to negotiations among countries of the region. The suspension of combat manoeuvres in Honduras by the US. Regional negotiations: With the ceasefire in place, negotiations among the US, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua on reducing standing armies, withdrawing foreign military personnel, restoring the regional military balance, guaranteeing security against outside support for insurgents and provisions for verification and confidence.

National reconciliation and dialogue: After 60 days, in countries where there are armed struggles, a general amnesty for political crimes, to be verified by commissions made up of government, opposition, Roman Catholic Church and Inter-American Human Rights Commission representatives. Immediately, a broad dialogue with unarmed opposition groups.

Ceasefire: An immediate

The Arias Plan

Amnesty and dialogue: After 60 days, in countries where there are armed struggles, a general amnesty for political crimes, to be verified by commissions made up of government, opposition, Roman Catholic Church and Inter-American Human Rights Commission representatives. Immediately, a broad dialogue with unarmed opposition groups.

Arms reduction: Within 60 days, the beginning of negotiations on controlling and reducing arms inventories and troops strength, along with measures to disarm irregulars.

Supervision and follow-up: Within 30 days, formation of a committee to supervise achievement of the agreement's goals, to be made up of the UN Secretary-General, the OAS Secretary-General and foreign ministers of the countries supporting the Contadora peace initiative.

Evaluating progress: Within six months, a meeting of the five Presidents from the region.

Economic agreements: Efforts to achieve economic and cultural agreements to promote development.

Nicaragua learns to carry on laughing

From David Gollob, Managua

Nicaraguans, who see themselves as a small nation caught in a tug-of-war between the superpowers, have developed a weapon to counter the steady deterioration in their quality of life.

It is not new, sophisticated or imported from the Soviet bloc. Not only is it homemade, it is not vulnerable to American military might. Moreover, unlike everything else in the country, it is abundant supply.

The weapon is humour. Although characterized by biting sarcasm and an underlying current of discontent with the revolution, some of the best Nicaraguan jokes are told by supporters of the ruling Sandinista Front.

In one story doing the rounds, Ronald Reagan, Fidel Castro and Daniel Ortega gather for a picnic on the shores of the huge, shark-infested Lake Nicaragua.

The Cuban and American leaders are boasting about the

prowess of their athletes. Castro dares Reagan to order the best US swimmer to go to a nearby island. The American sniffs, part of the President's retinue, is summoned. He leaps into the water, and within seconds disappears in a pool of blood. Castro calls on Cuba's top swimmer. He suffers the same fate.

Not wishing to be outdone, President Ortega brings out Nicaragua's best. A gentleman, he swims to the island, and within seconds disappears in a pool of blood. Castro calls on Cuba's top swimmer. He suffers the same fate.

Reagan and Castro, amazed at the old man's safe return, demand: "What is your secret?" The old man answers breathlessly: "With every stroke, I mutter 'democracy, social economy, non-alignment'. Nobody can swallow that."

Other jokes work as a shield against despair over the economic chaos that has become endemic. The joke about the

garrobo — a lizard slightly smaller than an iguana and considered a great delicacy here — is typical.

A worker, after receiving his wages, finds he cannot afford to buy any food for his family. But his spirits lift when on his way home he manages to catch a garrobo.

"Look what I've brought you!" he says, showing his wife the garrobo with pride. "Why don't you fry it right now?" She replies: "How can I fry it when we have no oil?" "Then boil it in water and make a stew," the man says.

"Don't you know there's been no water all week?" says the wife. "Let's roast it, then," says the worker. "How can I roast it when there's no cooking gas?"

The worker is so frustrated that he hurls the garrobo out of the window. "Long live the Sandinista Revolution!" exclaims the delighted lizard, as it scurries to the top of a tree. These are jokes told by

Sandinistas. Others, which circulate among non-supporters, betray darker feelings, as in the tale of the man who became impatient at having to spend so much time queuing because of chronic shortages.

"I'm going to get a gun and kill a Sandinista commandante," the man told other people waiting in a queue one day. Three days later he reappeared. The queue had barely moved.

"Did you kill a commandante?" the others asked him eagerly. "No," said the man. "There was a queue."

Although many jokes attack the personalities of Sandinista leaders, portrayed as heroes in the government-controlled media, the dominant themes are economic hardship and political discontent.

Yet the violence of many punchlines has no echo in the streets, which remain free of the disturbances and protests common to other, less severely hit Latin American countries.

Manila struck by tornado



The funnel of a tornado sweeping across a Manila suburb from a lake near the Philippines capital yesterday. At least six fishermen who were out on the lake when the tornado struck were reported missing. Several houses were destroyed, but there was no widespread damage.

Aquino rejects Marcos path

From Humphrey Hawksley, Manila

President Aquino yesterday made a powerful speech at the memorial service for her assassinated Cabinet minister, Mr Jaime Ferrer, making it clear that, despite continuing violence in the Philippines, she would not use the authoritarian measures of the deposed President Marcos.

Mr Ferrer, aged 70, the Minister for Local Government killed near his home in Manila on Sunday, was the first Cabinet member assassinated in the country's history.

Mrs Aquino said in the church in which Mr Ferrer had attended evening Mass before his murder: "Democracy can survive the death of Jaime Ferrer, and it can

survive the deaths that might follow, although I pray his death may be the last."

She noted there had been no assassinations of public officials during the rule of Mr Marcos, and democracy was sometimes mistaken for weakness. "But democracy cannot survive the adoption of the way of its enemies," she said. "We shall continue to fight anarchy with law, and murder with justice."

Mrs Aquino spoke beside the coffin of Mr Ferrer. Among the congregation were several Cabinet ministers and senior officials who had received death threats.

Five days after the killing, the investigators have few clues to the assassins' identity.

Two men were detained earlier this week, but later released. Yesterday a man and a woman were arrested and were being questioned at a military camp.

Mr Ferrer made enemies during the May congressional elections when he dismissed several local government officials who did not support President Aquino's candidates. Muslim guerrillas are also said to have listed Mr Ferrer as a marked man, but the main suspicion still falls on the communist New People's Army.

Congressional leaders have warned that, unless law and order are enforced, the newly-installed democratic system might collapse within a year.

Cultural revival in Russia

Soviet youth seeks 'forgotten values'

From Mary Dejevsky, Moscow

An eminent Soviet scholar has said that Russians should be allowed to travel abroad more freely, to gain a better appreciation of their own culture, and has called for the return from abroad of artefacts and archives which were taken out of Russia during and after the 1917 Revolution.

Academician Dmitry Likhachev, a respected Leninist historian, said there were many valuable items which had been taken abroad "for various reasons" for safekeeping, including the archives of old Russian families. Bringing them back to Russia, he said, would help to restore some of the "forgotten values".

Mr Likhachev was speaking in an interview with the foreign-language weekly, *New Times*, shortly after returning from Italy. It was the first time

he had been allowed to visit the West for many years.

The academician — a specialist in medieval Russian history and Russian culture — typifies the patriotic, but essentially non-political, intellectuals Mr Gorbachev has been trying to win over. Descended from an old Russian family, he provides a link between pre-revolutionary Russian scholarship and the new generation of Soviet-trained historians. He is also one of a small number of Soviet scholars who are as respected abroad as they are in their own country.

During the 1970s, Mr Likhachev experienced difficulty in pursuing his work as a historian. With the accession of Mr Gorbachev 2½ years ago, his name began to appear again in official publications, and earlier this year he was appointed to the board of the new Soviet Cultural Fund, of

which Mr Gorbachev's wife, Raisa, is a member.

He inaugurated his return to public activity by signing a petition calling on the authorities to abandon long-standing plans to reverse the flow of the Siberian river system. This grandiose project had been devised in Brezhnev's time to provide irrigation for the Central Asian republics, but many Russians feared it could have adverse ecological consequences. The project was abandoned a year ago.

The Soviet Cultural Fund has called for the restoration of old buildings, including churches, the preservation of traditional townscapes, and the provision of appropriate facilities for the storage and display of Russian art.

The establishment of the fund reflects a noticeable revival of interest in the pre-revolutionary past among young Russians, some of

whom spend their free time working voluntarily on the restoration projects.

A pedestrian precinct in one of the capital's oldest streets is the result of a public campaign in the early 1980s, and the authorities increasingly have to take into account an environmental lobby when they consider new building or traffic proposals.

The Soviet press has devoted some attention in recent months to two unofficial Russian cultural organizations — Pamyat (Memory) in Moscow, and Rodina (Homeland) in Leningrad — which, it claims, combine a healthy concern for the architectural and literary riches of the past with an unhealthy belief in the superiority of Russian culture. Accounts have been published of meetings which begin as cultural events and end with nationalist and anti-semitic chanting.

China and Russia in new talks

From Robert Gries, Peking

Mr Igor Rogachev, the Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister, arrived in Peking yesterday for a second round of talks aimed at resolving disputes along the Sino-Soviet border.

Mr Rogachev, met by reporters at Peking airport, did not hold out the promise of any breakthrough in the current negotiations which are expected to last two weeks. "We came here to work, and work very hard," he said.

Moscow and Peking have disagreed over their common boundary of 4,650 miles, particularly the segment dividing Siberia from Manchuria, since the 19th century.

Peking has said that it will not renew political relations with Moscow until the Russians remove "three obstacles" in the relationship: the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan; Soviet support for the Vietnamese occupation of Cambodia; and the deployment of Soviet military divisions along the Sino-Soviet border.

Mr Rogachev said that during the first round of border talks earlier this year the Chinese did not link the issue with the withdrawal of Soviet support for the Vietnamese occupation of Cambodia.

Peking to tackle refugees

From David Bonavia, Hong Kong

China is considering penalizing Vietnamese refugees who have been caught and sent back after trying to enter Hong Kong illegally from China.

A spokesman for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees said he understood that such people would be deprived of their land grants, farm implements and houses when they were sent back, but would not undergo judicial penalties.

There has been a huge influx of refugees into Hong Kong in recent weeks, mostly Vietnamese nationals of ethnic Chinese origin, who left Vietnam and were resettled in China but now want to improve their chances of resettlement in more prosperous countries such as the United States, Canada and Australia.

On Thursday alone more than 1,200 refugees arrived in Hong Kong, where new transit facilities have had to be set up to cope with them.

Refugees of ethnic Chinese origin have been leaving Vietnam for the past 10 years, with the encouragement, and even coercion, of the Vietnamese authorities who consider them a subversive or unruly element unfit to remain in Vietnam.

Sinhalese resistance now Jayewardene's worry

From Gavin Bell, Colombo



President Jayewardene: acceptance of the fact that India is dominant power in the region.

After years of civil warfare, President Jayewardene of Sri Lanka is optimistic that his latest agreement with India will bring initial opposition and provide a lasting solution to the Tamil separatist conflict.

In his first interview since signing the controversial accord last week with Mr Rajiv Gandhi, the Prime Minister of India, Mr Jayewardene told *The Times* he believed that a 7,000-strong Indian peacekeeping force could be withdrawn within two weeks — and, in any event, long before provincial elections scheduled to be held by the end of the year.

He made it clear he did not wish his island's Eastern province to be part of a semi-autonomous Tamil "homeland" in the northern Jaffna region, and did not expect any "intelligent opposition" to the compromise settlement.

The President believed the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam would honour the agreement and hand over all their weapons. Indian troops were in Sri Lanka only to enforce the ceasefire and to supervise the surrender of arms. Thereafter, their task would be over and they would be asked to leave.

The President said he would wish the Indians to leave by August 20. "If there is a complete cessation of hostilities, then we don't want any troops." Under the terms of the Indo-Sri Lanka accord, elections are to be

held by December 31 for a single council to administer the Northern and Eastern provinces for a year.

The Eastern province, where Sinhalese and Muslims outnumber Tamils, would then have an opportunity, via a referendum, to opt out of the arrangement. Mr Jayewardene said he intended to appoint an interim administration for the two regions within a few days, principally comprised of government agents. He added that some people, who had previously opposed the Government but were now coming into "the mainstream of politics", might also be brought in.

Asked whether militants of the Tamil Tigers would be included, he replied: "Yes — all of them."

However, the President was opposed to the long-term linkage of the two provinces. "I have no particular objection, but I think the Sinhalese and Muslims don't want it."

Mr Jayewardene said he was confident of overcoming opposition to the accord from within his Cabinet and ruling parliamentary group, and expected to submit the legislation to Parliament by the end of September or early October. "You can't be in the Cabinet and keep on opposing the chairman of the Cabinet, but I don't think anyone will leave. They will all vote with me. That Bill will be passed unanimously."

The President said his main worry now was the violence of "Sinhalese terrorists" in the

south of the country, where the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna, a clandestine left-wing group, has been blamed for a wave of gun and fire-bomb attacks on officials. However, he said: "It is not as serious as the problem we had in the north. I think we will get over it quickly. I represent the Sinhalese. My Government represents them. They have to accept the settlement, otherwise they'll be locked up. They can't be allowed to burn shops and kill people."

Mr Jayewardene confirmed that two Indian frigates lying off Colombo were sent in response to fears of a revolt against his Government. "There have been various threats of assassination of members of the Government, one member of Parliament has already been shot and killed, and several of their houses have been destroyed. They are still coming in."

Mr Jayewardene said he was always under personal threats. The Indo-Sri Lanka accord had made his position "more dangerous" and he had since received a number of "nasty" telephone calls. "But then all politicians put their lives on the line all the time."

He said Sri Lanka had to accept that India was the dominant power of the region, but he denied charges that he had surrendered Sri Lankan sovereignty by pledging not to allow its ports to be used for military purposes by any country in a manner prejudicial to India's

interests. "India is the most powerful nation in the Indian Ocean. Either I must go to some bigger power, which I don't want to do, or I must accept that fact."

Asked about the ports issue, he said: "You can only, if I may say so, take away from my independence by laws, not by words. There is nothing that we are doing there without discussions."

Mr Jayewardene was disappointed by the American response to his request for military assistance, which he said was small. "America won't lift a finger to help me without asking India... they realize that India is the guardian of this part of the world for democracy, they're quite happy with that." He said he "did not trust a single power", but he had faith in Mr Gandhi. "You never know with these big powers, they chop and change, you can't trust anybody. India is the same, but I am friendly with Rajiv Gandhi and I trust him."

At the same time, he criticized India's past actions in providing the Tamil guerrillas with arms supplies, and dropping food on the Jaffna peninsula. "I am for non-violence. I believe in Gandhian philosophy. I am more Gandhian than any Indian, more than Rajiv Gandhi. I would not do some of the things he has done and said. I wouldn't have tried to invade Sri Lanka. I wouldn't have dropped the foodstuffs. That was a foolish and impetuous act."

Amritsar curfew as 16 killed in Punjab

Delhi — Sikh extremists have killed 14 Hindus and two Sikhs in different parts of Punjab. Thirteen were shot dead in Amritsar district, two in Ludhiana and one in Bala (Kuldip Nayar writes).

A curfew has been imposed in Amritsar, and a "red" security alert ordered throughout northern India. Most schools in Delhi were closed early after a threat that children would be forcibly taken away from one of them.

Race hatred

Koblentz (Reuter) — A West German schoolteacher accused of telling pupils that Nazi concentration camps were just a fabrication was given a nine-month suspended prison sentence for inciting racial hatred.

New leader

Seoul (AFP) — South Korea's National Assembly approved the appointment of Mr Kim Chung Yul as Prime Minister by 144 votes to 72.

Gaza curbs

Tel Aviv (Reuter) — The Israeli Army is to bar soldiers from travelling alone in the occupied Gaza Strip after the killing of an Israeli military police commander on Sunday by Palestinian guerrillas.

Poison wine

Hong Kong (Reuter) — Rice wine laced with industrial alcohol has killed 55 people and poisoned 3,600 in China's Guangxi province.

Helpers die

Addis Ababa (Reuter) — Two American aid workers were killed when their helicopter crashed here.

Minister quits

Brasilia (Reuter) — President Sarney has accepted the resignation of Brazil's Interior Minister, Senator Joaquim Francisco Cavalcanti.

Macao airport

Macao (Reuter) — China has approved plans by Macao to build a \$260 million international airport.

Spy trial date

Tel Aviv (Reuter) — The trial of the accused nuclear spy, Mr Mordechai Vanunu, will open in the Jerusalem district court later this month.

SPORTING DIARY

Simon Barnes

Launching the paunch

Yachting has made a miraculous technical breakthrough: big fat men. The skipper of one boat at Cowes this week reckons his speed has increased by as much as 0.2 knots since he took a wrestler called Barry on board. Yachting is based on the complexities of its rating and handicapping system, involving such things as weight and sail area. A boat is penalized for adding "displacement" or extra structural weight. But while the number of crew is limited there are no limitations at all on their weight. So in comes a new trend of human ballast. The Australian boat Swan Premium I has Detective Sergeant Gary Schipper, a modest 20 stone; Swan Premium II has Henry Paterson at 22 stone; and Goldcorp has Arran Hansen, also 22 stone.

It is the job of these men to sit on the edge of the boat on the windward side. At times of negligible wind, they lie down on a bunk somewhere down below the water line. That is the extent of their duties, and all they are required to know about sailing. These men have formed the Gunwale Fodder Club: associate members, must be 120 kilos (about 19 stone) and full members a minimum 135 kilos. The top man is certainly the former wrestler, Barry Greenhall, aka Tiny Decosol Carcare, who joined the crew as a 35-stoner. He was asked to slim to around 25 stone, but instead has soared to 37 stone.

Overheard in the National Horseracing Museum at Newmarket: "Look daddy, this is all about Fred Archer. Do you think that's Jeffrey Archer's father?"

Dual in the sun

There are moments when all cricketers feel surplus to requirement: mooning about at fine leg, never getting a ball and often not even a bat, while the ringers reap all the glory. But Martin Cowley writes from Hong Kong to tell me of real monopoly on the pitch. In a recent league game between Kowloon CC and a police side the police declared their first innings closed at the fall of the first wicket, with Cummings on 160-odd and Lacy Smith with 70. KCC were dismissed for around 70: Lacy Smith took three wickets and Cummings seven. Not a fielder was involved in any dismissal: all were bowled or lbw.

The easy way to health and fitness — a sumped that modulates in time with your breathing. The idea is that you get a massage and a tan at the same time.

Sauerbraten

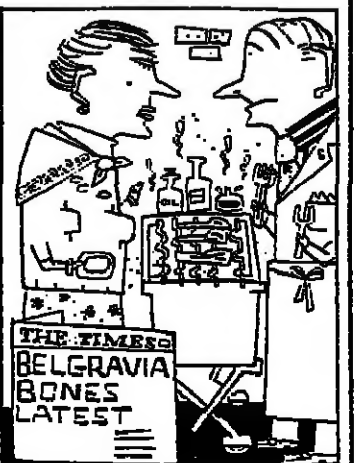
The wit and wisdom of John McEnroe: yes, the lad was in fine form at the recent Davis Cup relegation play-off between the United States, playing at home, and West Germany. "What the hell country are you in," he asked a linesman with whose call he disagreed. When spectators applauded Boris Becker he yelled: "Go eat some sauerkraut." And as a final Wildean quip when a black linesman called a service fault against him: "I didn't know they had black Germans." West Germany won. Good.

Where are they now? Former Chelsea and England midfielder Alan Hudson runs a nightclub in Newcastle-under-Lyme which is to be the venue for a regular Wednesday disco by the South Cheshire Natist Club.

Pay dirt

I have just learnt a fascinating fact about baseball, and can't wait to pass it on. Apparently umpires have to rub all new balls in the dirt before a game to take the sheen off them. This used to be done with any old improvised mud pie, but after 1938 they got it better organized. Irritated by the scratch marks left on the ball, the then Philadelphia coach, Lena Blackburn, came up with a special kind of dirt, with a base of fine sand and he started selling it in tins. He claimed that it came from the Delaware River, though others believed that its provenance was in fact New Jersey. No matter: the stuff from the Lena Blackburn Rubbing Mud Company is what all the balls in a major league baseball have to be rubbed in. And the stuff costs around \$15 a tin. The information comes from a soon-to-be-published book called *Baseball: A Cricketer's Guide*.

BARRY FANTONI



Bernard Levin, at the opera, muses on Godunov and Gorbachov

Harmony across the divide

The first thing to be said about the visit of the Kirov Opera of Leningrad to Covent Garden is that it isn't the Kirov Opera, at any rate in colloquial speech. Everyone in Leningrad who is not obliged, *ex officio*, to follow the correct line, calls it by its pre-revolutionary name, the Maryinsky. I don't know what Russians call The Street of the October Revolution, but I'm damned sure it isn't that. (There is, incidentally, a hideous irony here. Kirov was one of Stalin's most faithful henchmen, and it was his murder that unleashed the full Terror; the use of his name as a memorial was Stalin's tribute. But it is now virtually certain that he was killed on Stalin's direct orders.)

My pedantry is not only pedantry; everybody in New York calls the Avenue of the Americas Sixth Avenue, and the principle at stake is the same the world over. It is a heartening one too, in a tyrannies and democracies alike those who have grown accustomed to a well-loved name will go on using it, no matter how many decrees, statutory instruments and by-laws tell them not to.

The second thing to be said is that the Maryinsky is the most beautiful opera house in the world, not even excepting the Fenice. On my only visit to it, in 1959, I saw a ludicrous *Carmen*, but the gentle splendour of the auditorium is what remains in my mind and feelings. O, to have seen *Figaro* there! O, to see it there yet, with the Romanovs in the Royal Box, and the city called St. Petersburg once more, and the gallows outside still quivering from the weight of the Politburo!

I have never wavered in my belief that I shall live to see such things come about; meanwhile, the Maryinsky Opera has come to London — the last performance is

tonight — and that will have to do for the time being.

They brought *The Queen of Spades*, Eugene Onegin and Boris Godunov (some still swear that *The Guardian* once printed the name, from a phoned-in review, *Doris Godunovich*). I didn't see the *Queen of Spades*; it is not a work I have ever warmed to. But *Onegin* and *Boris* are two of opera's greatest masterpieces, and standing as they do at the respective poles of the domestic and the dynastic (both, incidentally, based on Pushkin, as is also the *Queen of Spades*), they provided a most revealing comparison with what we are used to throughout the West.

To start with *Onegin*, there was almost nothing that we would call production. That is not necessarily a bad thing, as anyone who saw Covent Garden's catastrophic *Flying Dutchman* last year will eagerly testify. But there was a wonderfully old-fashioned suspicion of originality and even imagination, instantly apparent at curtain-rise; the sets looked as though they weighed hundreds of tons, and had been brought over in an oil-tanker. The scene-painting must have been done by a team determined to go one better than Corot; the leaves on the trees were not just meticulously accurate, but as far as I could see might have been the real thing, hand-sewn onto the twigs and dusted twice daily.

Grouping followed the flag; when the chorus addressed the audience they did so in line abreast; another moment and they would have numbered from the right, fist to shoulder. For that matter, practically everybody with an aria or an extended passage faced downstage and let fly, the most striking example of this being Gremm's aria, where they practically cleared the entire stage for him. (It was magnificently



Mikhail Kit in the Kirov Opera production of Boris Godunov sung by Nikolai Okhotnikov, who should be offered a contract by Covent Garden at once.

But somehow, it didn't matter; on the contrary, the faded style, the realistic sets, the muffled Polonaise (the producer, who was also the conductor, would have dropped dead from astonishment if he had seen the first dash and ensemble in Act Three of the Glyndebourne *Onegin*, and would have had at least an attack of angina if he had seen the Covent Garden one), the air of practised ease and comfort, the certainty that this was the only way to go about it, coupled with a very visible and audible pride in the knowledge that this was a masterpiece from the very soul of Russia — all these things combined to cast a warm glow over the proceedings, and I emerged feeling that although I would not like to see such stage-work more than once every year for fear the plink-plonk conducting, which nearly turned Gremm into a comic figure, more than once every five, I had nevertheless enjoyed myself

greatly, and did not need to think in terms of comparative quality.

The *Boris* was much worse; I hadn't seen such wooden staging since the last days of the Carl Rosa, and the tenor bleated his way through it until I longed to get the shears to work on him. But there is nothing in the world of music to touch the sound of real Russian basses singing real Russian bass music; the sonorous glory of the Pimen, Alexander Morozov, would alone have justified the price of the ticket — nay, the entire visit.

I don't know if any reciprocal visit from London to St. Petersburg is planned. I hope so, for although we learned nothing from the Maryinsky visit, we understood more, and if Covent Garden took its best work to the Maryinsky, the Russians would both understand and learn from it. Alas, Tardovsky, who gave Covent Garden that incomparable *Boris*, died in exile from his native land, and tact would inevitably decree that it should not be included in the repertoire for such a return match.

International sport produces nothing but cheating, complaining, mutual hatred and a worsening — sometimes delightfully permanent — of relations between countries. Music, on the whole, is free of such stains. I am not such a fool as to believe that the success of an operatic exchange will diminish the evils of the world, let alone that it proves the genuineness of Gorbachov's promises of reform. But such an exchange can be self-contained, and none the worse for that. "When the cannons are silent, the Muses are heard; when the Muses are silent, the cannons are heard." That is, I think, a Russian proverb, and unfortunately it enshrines a very dangerous over-simplification. But I hope the Maryinsky opera comes back soon.

Ian Bradley traces the history of royal summers in Scotland

Victoria the pioneer

The Royal Family's annual summer holiday at Balmoral which begins tomorrow is one of the most enduring legacies of the reign of Queen Victoria. Although she presided over an age of invention, Victoria was generally happy to leave making and discovering things to her husband.

But there is one Victorian invention for which the Queen herself was largely responsible — the view which still prevails of the Highlands of Scotland as a region of romance and escape, a playground for walkers and sportsmen, a wild and grand land peopled by a race at once more heroic and more poetic than other Britons.

Queen Victoria was not, of course, the first visitor to Scotland to be struck by these qualities. In 1796 the young George Gordon Byron had been brought to recover from an attack of scarlet fever to the Pannanich Wells, a few miles from Balmoral. The scenery made much the same impression on him as it would on the young Queen nearly half a century later.

England! Thy beauties are tame and domestic
To one who has roved o'er the mountains afar;
Oh for the crags that are wild and majestic,
The steep, frowning glories of dark Loch na Garr!

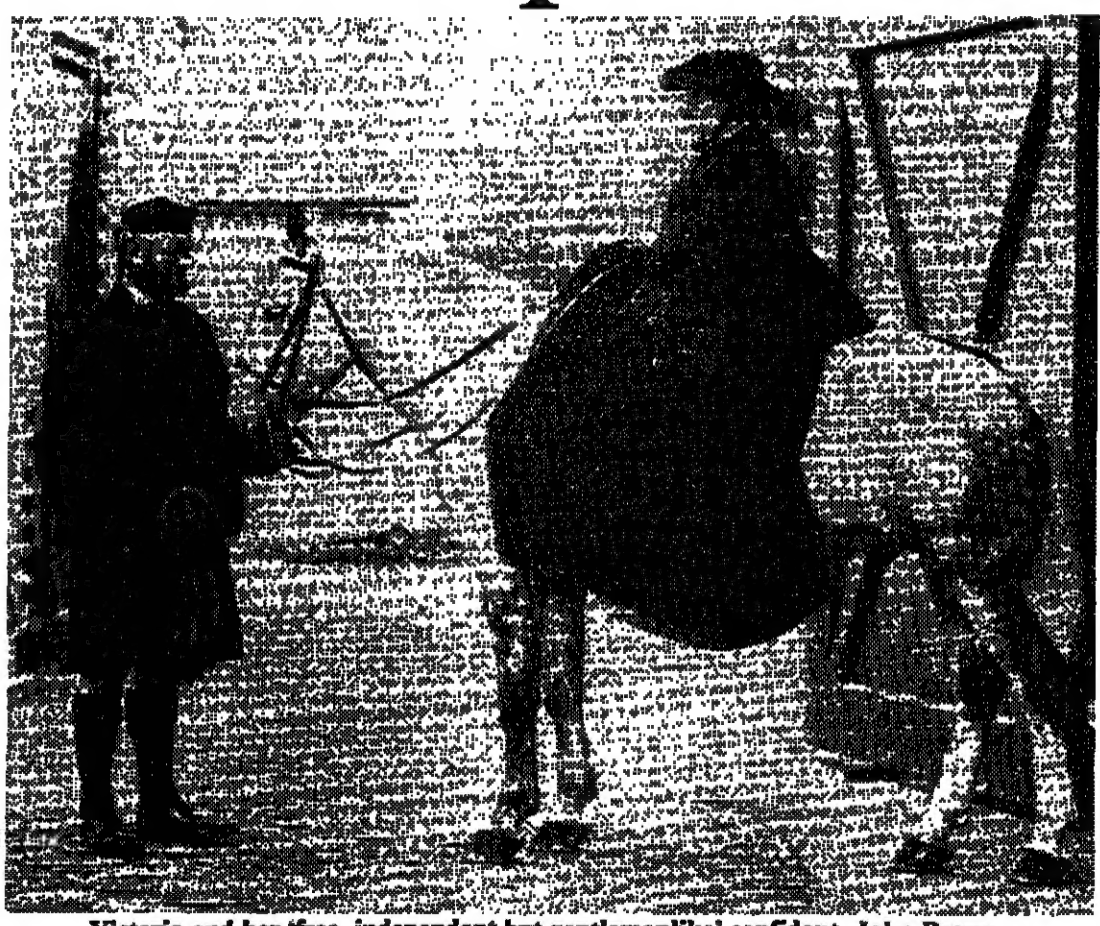
The letters and poems of William Wordsworth, who first visited Scotland a few years after Byron, portray the Highlands in the same romantic and idealized terms. They are in stark contrast to the verdict of most 18th-century English travellers who echoed Dr Johnson's comment: "Seeing Scotland is only seeing a worse England. It is seeing the flower gradually fade away to the naked stalk."

If the English romantic poets had begun to change the image of the Highlands some time before Victoria's accession, it was Scotland's own highly romantic novelist who did most to create the legend for which the Queen and many of her subjects were to fall. In the works of Sir Walter Scott, which were among her reading matter, the idealization of the Highlander as a noble, chivalrous child of nature reached its apotheosis.

Scott was also a fervent promoter of that largely 18th-century invention, the clan tartan, and stage-managed the much-publicized visit to Edinburgh of George IV in 1822, which had the nobility and gentry of Scotland wearing kilts for the first time in their lives. He did more than set a royal seal on this already developing cult. Through her annual stays in Balmoral, which began in 1848 and lasted four months of the year after Albert's death in 1861, she established the Highlands as the place for the English upper classes to spend the summer.

While Continental aristocrats and plutocrats followed their monarchs to the sultry spa resorts of southern and central Europe, Midlands industrialists and London bankers bought up large tracts of Scotland and pursued the more manly pursuits of deer stalking, hill walking and fishing.

Prince Albert was in many ways the pioneer of this healthy holidaying, which has been a feature of English upper-class life until recent times — when the deer forests have been sold to the Arabs and the Dutch and shooting and fishing rights rented out to syndicates of American businessmen. The Scottish Highlands ap-



Victoria and her 'free, independent but gentlemanlike' confidant, John Brown

pealed to him because they reminded him of his native Saxe-Coburg — on their first visit to Balmoral, Victoria noted that the wooded valley of the Dee brought to mind the Thuringerwald.

Albert brought his own German correctness and civility to hunting. The Marquess of Breadalbane was amazed when, at his first Highland shoot in 1842, the prince refused to fire because the bushes in front of him were full of beaters.

The Queen also loved the outdoor life at Balmoral, delighting in sketching trips and in the "Great Expeditions" into the Cairngorms where she rode incognito on a pony accompanied by one or two ghillies.

For this particular breed of men, Victoria developed an affection and admiration that went beyond her feelings for any other group of her subjects. "They are free and independent," she wrote, "but have a higher sense of real respect, and of what is gentlemanlike, than the most over-polished English servant." It was in the rugged figure of the ghillie John Brown that Victoria was to find both the quintessence of Highland manhood and also her closest confidant and companion after the death of her husband.

Whatever the nature of their relationship — and there is not a shred of evidence that it was ever more than a warm and genuine friendship — there is no doubt that the Queen idealized her Scottish servant and regarded him as the exemplar of all the virtues which she saw in his race.

In her eyes he was a kind of noble savage, or as her private secretary, Sir Henry Ponsonby put it, "a child of nature", epitomizing the sturdy, primitive values which contrasted so strongly with the effete airs of her other courtiers.

Victoria has often been criticized by Scots for promoting the cult of Balmoral which reduced their country, in the eyes of the English, to a romantic holiday playground shrouded in mist and legends. It is true that the Queen did her bit to spread the diabolical tartanitis, which still breaks out

like a rash wherever Scottish goods are sold and reaches epidemic proportions in television programmes on New Year's Eve. Disappointed at her first visit to Crathie Kirk that the worshippers were not wearing kilts, she decided that the royal household must set an example and ordered that all the staff at Balmoral should wear the tartan. With Albert she designed their own Balmoral tartan, based on the Royal Stewart, which is still worn with minor variations by the Royal Family today. She also covered the walls of her Highland home with Scottish emblems, so much so that Lord Clarendon commented there were enough thistles in the drawing room alone to choke a donkey.

Other long-established Highland customs also appealed to the Queen. Mr Gladstone was horrified on a visit to Balmoral to find that she strengthened her claret with whisky. She developed a considerable fondness for the Scottish national drink and showed a surprising tolerance towards those of her ghillies and retainers who over-indulged in it.

But if Victoria was guilty of over-romanticizing the Highlands, so also were some of her most distinguished subjects. Ed-



Sir Walter Scott: creator of the tartan legend

win Landseer found the region to be the perfect backdrop for idealized paintings like the Stag at Bay and the Monarch of the Glen. Matthew Arnold celebrated the sensitivity and spirituality of the Celts against the dullness and materialism of the Anglo-Saxons. J.F. Campbell and Andrew Carmichael collected Highland folklore. And later Janet Kennedy Fraser went around the Hebridean Islands noting down the songs of the islanders, which she rearranged with piano accompaniments for the drawing room.

Victoria has often been accused of being blind to the true condition of the Highlands as one of the most poverty-stricken and depressed parts of her empire. She never once mentioned the clearances that were removing thousands of the men and women whom she idolized from the land where they had lived and worked for generations. But if she did not go to Scotland as a social reformer, neither did she go simply as a tourist.

She loved the Highlands because there, alone of all the places in her realm, she could live something approaching an ordinary life. Charles Greville was struck by this feature of the Royal Family at Balmoral: "They live there without any state whatever; they live not merely like private gentlemen, but like very small gentlemen — small house, small rooms, small establishment. There are no soldiers and the whole guard consists of a single policeman. The Queen often goes about alone, walks into the cottages, and chats with the old women."

At Balmoral, and even more in her private retreat in the little shieling of Achna-Guithach and in her incognito visits to villages where she was treated with civility but without servility, the Queen could be herself. It is fitting that 150 years later her great-grandson should go to the Hebrides to find a similar peace and wholeness. The sadness is that where she could spend four months every year, he could only spare three days.

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Robert Kilroy-Silk

Cornerstone of thuggery

Tony Benn was smart to use Hyde Park Corner for the first public reading of Peter Wright's banned book, *Spycatcher*. He and it received, as planned, worldwide publicity. It was perhaps a pity that his audience seemed to be composed almost exclusively of reporters and photographers rather than the "people" for whom our old-fashioned radical so often claims to speak.

Nevertheless, he was right to choose Hyde Park Corner for his challenge to the government. It is, after all, the only place in Britain where we have a positive, statutory right to free speech. We may, we do, we ought to assume the right elsewhere, but it is only at Speaker's Corner that it is enshrined in an Act of Parliament.

The somewhat prosaic-sounding Park Regulation Act of 1872 says that: "Anyone with a mind to do so, may now declaim on any subject he chooses, providing he is not obscene, blasphemous or does not constitute an incitement to a breach of the peace." I'm not sure from the scenes that I witnessed a few weeks ago, when recording the programme *On the Corner*, to be broadcast on Radio 4 tomorrow, that any of these commands to good behaviour are obeyed. One of the speakers was provocatively and outrageously blasphemous, while at least one other would have been considered obscene by Mrs Whitehouse, and others.

But leaving that to one side, the fact is that speakers have gathered at this spot to exercise their right to free speech for well over 100 years. This small concrete island just a hecker's shout from the noise and bustle of Marble Arch and Park Lane is the home of a unique British institution, or so they say. There is nothing like it anywhere else in the world, Donald Soper declares. It certainly draws the tourists. They gather in their hundreds every Sunday afternoon in summer to see the right to free speech exercised on the site of the Tyburn gallows.

It all sounds very romantic, and in a sense it is. After all, it's part of a tradition that goes back to the days when a condemned man was allowed a last word before the noose tightened around his neck. The spot has hosted major political rallies and demonstrations, including the massive ones against Sunday trading and the Reform Bill and, more recently, in favour of unilateral nuclear disarmament. And it has entertained some famous names. Jomo Kenyatta spoke there, as did Comrade Lenin and anarchists Emma Goldman and Tom Mann, and the dockers' leader, Ben Tillett.

But it is over-rated and over-romanticized. The reality, as always, is slightly different to that of the myth so carefully fostered by the textbooks and the tourist guides. The truth is that it's a tacky place. Traffic noise almost drowns the speaker's voice, it's awash with litter, beer cans and pickpockets,

and it is monopolized by sweaty tourists gnawing hamburgers. There are no longer the wooden soap boxes that I remember, or imagined, from my regrettably days. They have been replaced by brightly coloured reinforced plastic milk crates and shiny aluminium ladders.

All this, I suppose, to be expected and accepted as being no more than a sign of the times, progress. So also, no doubt, is the new custom of virtually ignoring the speakers. Most of those in the "audience", excepting the tourists, were there, they told me, because they were lonely and had nowhere else to go. The Corner has become a great open-air meeting place, somewhere to gossip and socialize. That's fine, but it does not have the atmosphere of a venerable and unique British institution so much as of that of a Middle Eastern bazaar.

But then the speakers no longer constitute much of a draw; probably never did. Donald Soper still performs there every Sunday, as he has done for the past 50 years, but he's a lonely, if distinguished, figure. He is one of the few who actually has something to say, who is serious and sincere and who wants an argument and who is actually seeking to influence others, even make converts. There aren't many others like him. The politicians, Tony Benn excepted for the last two weeks, never step forth in the place. Instead speakers tend to be religious and racial cranks and zealots who help the Corner live up to its reputation as being an "open-air lunatic asylum".

They are also predominantly foreigners. It's now comparatively rare to see a British subject exercising his right to free speech in Hyde Park. It is used instead by Palestinians to harangue the Israelis, by Libyans to denounce the Americans, by Americans to criticize the Latin Americans and by Iranians to denigrate everyone.

The funerals' takeover of Hyde Park Corner is only one aspect of how it has changed. The other, and more disturbing, is the growth of the yobbish tendency. Every Sunday without exception this so-called shrine of British democracy plays host to a small but well organized and disciplined group of hecklers who deliberately set out to disrupt and destroy the meetings. And they succeed. There is no free speech when they are around, yet no one seems to care about the way this verbal thuggery is ruining the bastion of free speech. Unless action is taken against them soon they will destroy it in the same way that others like them have helped to destroy football.

But then perhaps we shouldn't worry too much. After all, it merely reflects the rest of Britain: getting a little tawdry and dominated by foreigners and thugs.

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The author was a Merseyside Labour MP, 1974-86.

Peter Brimelow

Glorious sun of that other York

New York

Another American summer is now reaching its blazing height. I like to sum up the difference between the English and American summer, even at the former's elegant honey-for-tea best, by telling the story of the famous bet between the Prince Regent and Beau Brummel as to which side of a Brighton street would have more cats. The Prince Regent won, by choosing the sunny side. In America the cats stay in the shade.

The heat hits you like a wall when you go outdoors in Manhattan during the summer, so intense that you expect to see steam. There isn't any, but your eyes have trouble anyway, because the light is so brilliant. And the humidity can leave you drenched with perspiration in seconds.

Only map addicts like myself are generally aware of how far America lies southward of England. New York City, for example, is in the latitude of Naples. It's not surprising that summer temperatures here can exceed 100°. And the eastern seaboard of continents typically have less rainfall, which explains why whole levels of English clouds are missing here, and why, even during the periodic awe-inspiring thunderstorms, pure blue skies are always just around the corner.

Much of America doesn't have humidity, of course. Air conditioning has revolutionized life in the South and East where it is a problem. In Washington, which according to legend the British Foreign Office once treated as a tropical hardship post, a common witicism is that activist federal government only began when air-conditioning made it possible for Congress to stay in session through the summer.

Personally, I adore air-conditioning. It has some disconcerting side effects, however. The contrast of heat and humidity between indoors and outdoors is supposed to cause summer colds. Car windscreens sometimes steam up on the outside. And if you leave your car window slightly ajar, the hot day slithers in and coils around your feet like an octopus's inquiring tentacle.

The absolute reliability of warm sunny summers is the common experience of Americans (and most Canadians). The effect

is reinforced by the physical munificence of the continent. All down the east coast of America, for example, for some 2,000 miles from Maine to the Florida Keys, stretch more or less continuous broad, sandy beaches. They support a continuous and homogeneous summer culture of surfboards, cottage communities and sun worship.

Americans are naturally a committee-forming, election-holding, self-governing people. The trait enables thousands of young people in Washington, New York and Boston to band together every year and rent houses for the summer, dividing their rights and responsibilities minutely and organizing social activities so thoroughly that each city in effect establishes a seasonal shadow of itself by the seaside.

The American summer is ritually bounded by two of several public holidays that form three-day weekends during the period: Memorial Day in May and Labor Day in early September. School holidays are very much longer than in Britain, reflecting the harvest needs of a population that was predominantly rural until much later. Perfect weather and the leisure to enjoy it combine to give summer an emotive force that forms a discernible theme running through American popular songs and stories.

Years ago, the historian Frederick Jackson Turner developed the "frontier thesis", a celebrated explanation of the American character in terms of the influence of the open frontier with its apparently endless promise of free land and a new life. The frontier thesis is rarely discussed now. Probably it means little to the many descendants of more recent immigrants, who settled in the cities after the West was won and the frontier officially declared closed in the 1890 census.

But it is perhaps not altogether fanciful to speculate about a "summer thesis". The Americans' unflinching summer might well have helped form their natural optimism, its bright primary colours could have subtly encouraged their simplicity, and its astonishing bounty enhanced their essential goodwill.

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THE THREAT OF GLASNOST

When they demonstrated in Red Square recently the Crimean Tatars, descendants of noble or at least tenacious fighters, held up crudely daubed placards saying "Glasnost". Following the same logical route, Solidarity demonstrators in Poland, as well as Czech and Hungarian dissidents have chanted "Gorbachov" at critical moments — treating the Soviet Leader as a kind of patron saint to be deployed against the police baton or the censor. Perhaps the General Secretary is flattered by the attention. But there are those in Moscow, we suspect, who are not amused.

The Tatars are not likely to gain much satisfaction from Mr Gorbachov's response to their protest. A Commission set up with KGB sponsorship and chaired by President Andrei Gromyko does not augur well. But they have unwittingly become a test case. Glasnost, the use of limited public candour for political ends, now no longer applies only to economic bottle necks, the black Stalin years and tricky social issues (pollution, drug addicts, mental illness, prostitutes), but also to the question of nationality. There is no more sensitive area of Soviet life.

For example, within the Soviet borders there are more than 40 million moslems. Their birth-rate easily outpaces that of the Russians and increasingly they are asking for the right to modernise their societies without Russian interference. Intervention by Moscow — whether it be in political preference of Russians, or Russian language teaching, or the military draft, or in the licensing of churches and mosques — is resented not only by the moslems of Soviet Central Asia but also in the Baltic republics, the Ukraine and Armenia.

As well as this discontent, there are the Soviet nationalities without a home — the ethnic Germans and the Tatars — who are demanding the correction of unjust wartime decisions. And the Soviet jews, who despite a recent improvement (3,900 have emigrated so far this year), are still only trickling out of the country. There is some misapprehension in the West about glasnost. Glasnost is not a policy. It is an attitude, a way of approaching selected problems, but not the only one. Mr Gorbachov has a choice. He can extend glasnost to each of the constituent republics of the Soviet Union — and encourage it in the Soviet neighbours —

and hope for a revival of morale, a livelier economic and political climate. That carries substantial risks; above all, the prospect of a slow dissolution of the Soviet fraternity.

Alternatively, he can deal with each problem as the case merits, shooting demonstrators in Kazakhstan (last December), talking to them in Moscow, allowing dissidents to publish their own magazine in Warsaw (the commendable and intriguing *Respublica*) and having their phones cut in Prague, permitting Tatars to chant in Red Square while sending armoured cars against them in Uzbekistan. This too is a dangerous line because Soviet subjects and satellites have one primary demand of a new Kremlin leader: consistency. Czech and East German Officials, confronted with the idea that they are out of step with Moscow reformist cause, raise their arms and say: "But what is the Gorbachov line?"

What indeed? Mr Gorbachov is caught in the jaws of a dilemma: candour or control? To be candid, to make glasnost a uniform practice, is to foster unrest from East Berlin to Siberia, from Riga to Alma Ata. Yet to tighten the screws against independent nationalism and at the same time to expect factory managers to act with initiative in pursuit of profit and efficiency is a hopeless undertaking, a confusion of carrots and sticks.

If Mr Gorbachov is to be more than a transitional leader he must face this dilemma. For the internal opposition to his policies will not come, as usually predicted in the West, from stick-in-the-mud bureaucrats or obstructive apparatchiks. These can be outflanked if one has full control over personnel and propaganda policies. Rather, those trying to unsettle Mr Gorbachov will accuse him of unravelling the Soviet block, of allowing the growth of independent nationalism and of weakening the power of Moscow. The Soviet Union is a multi-national organisation held together by force or the threat of force, not by persuasion or consent. Glasnost, if it is intended as a mere safety valve while the Soviet leadership demand economic sacrifice, should be supported. But when glasnost threatens the cement of empire, when it spurs on nationalist discontent, it endangers the survival of Mr Gorbachov.

A CRIME FOR THE COLONEL

While the world's attention has turned to Iran, what is happening back at Langrath? The Congressional committee hearings have ended. The aim of the Democratic majority was to expose Republican wrongdoing and chaos. But that was not all which was exposed. So was Lt-Col North — but to the admiring gaze of what is assumed, not least by the average American politician, to be the average American.

The Democrats on the committee had remembered the way in which the last lot of Republican conspirators (the Watergate ones) had cringed before a similar tribunal. They had high hopes of bullying Lt-Col North. He ended up bullying them.

They felt able to be much ruder to the other conspirator, the plumper, less glamorous Admiral John Poindexter. But now the problem remains: what should be done about Lt-Col North? When it became known that he and Admiral Poindexter had tried to divert to the Nicaraguan Contras the cash raised from Iran by the arms-for-American hostages bargain, it was widely assumed that a crime had been committed.

The sales were assumed to have violated the Boland, passed by Congress. Essentially, these amendments did two things. They forbade money appropriated by Congress to be used to arm the Contras. And they forbade any Government intelligence agency to assist the Contras. But the admiral and the lieutenant colonel did not divert to the Contras any money appropriated for another purpose by Congress. They intended only to use money raised from Iran.

There is also considerable doubt as to whether the National Security Council, for which they worked, is a Government intelligence agency. The Democrats say it has become so. Admiral Poindexter and Lt-Col North point out that a 1981 presidential order listing all intelligence agencies — which was accepted by the Democrats as the document which defines the breed — did not include it.

To get round such problems, various fraud statutes — hitherto used in tax evasion — may

be brought into play. There is even talk of using anti-racketeering laws, enacted to fight organised crime. Arming the Contras would have to be made to look akin to gun-running for the Mafia. What of the shredding of documents which Lt-Col North admitted to the Congressional hearing? Surely that is destruction of evidence? It is. But he is protected by the partial immunity from prosecution granted to him by Congress to get him to give as much information as possible.

When the affair began, the word "criminal" — because of post-Watergate influences — was used too lightly. Even President Reagan, by appointing that quintessential post-Watergate figure, the special prosecutor, tacitly conceded that — whatever Admiral Poindexter and Lt-Col North had done — it must have been criminal. Mr Reagan has changed his tune on that now.

But once appointed, the special prosecutor and his staff take on a life of their own, unrestrained by White House or Congress. Their own "machismo" might make them want to find a way to put the two men in the dock. At that point, the politicians — in what would either be an election year or an approaching one — can be expected to become a lot less enthusiastic in their pursuit of wrongdoing by the lieutenant colonel. A trial could have huge repercussions for next year's campaign. If he is put on trial on a convoluted charge, he will look like a victim of the law rather than its violator.

It is cautionary tale for those in a democracy whose attitude is moulded by Watergate, and who see politics as being largely about cover-ups and conspiracies indulged in by their own country — a tale as cautionary for Britain as for the United States. Lt-Col North's Democratic pursuers — faced with this showy soldier whom they thought had tried to subvert the constitution — must have felt that, like their predecessors in the French Third Republic, they had found a General Boulanger. Unless they are careful, they could end up with a Dreyfus.

FOURTH LEADER

Judges are frequently, and with some reason, thought to be unwieldy figures, for ever asking "Who is Joan Collins?" or "What is a Yuppie?" But a judge in Italy has now gone about as far as is possible in the field of judicial naivety. An estranged couple had come before him, each claiming possession of the matrimonial apartment, and plainly at daggers drawn. Only a judge could have come up with such a solution; he awarded the bedroom to the wife and the living-room to the husband, and he topped the lot by ordering them to share the bathroom and kitchen.

Something in the story suggests that there is shortly going to be a murder-trial before this judge; let us hope that he comes to a rather more sensible conclusion when it does. To condemn such a pair to an indefinite regime of shared accommodation is not only certain to make their mutual dislike much worse, but comes close to what in American law is called "cruel and unusual punishment." (And remember that the judge's decree was not imposed as a sentence; it was supposed to be a solution.)

Nation shall speak peace unto nation; the wolf shall dwell with the lamb; the leopard shall lie down with the kid; but the kindest mother-in-law shall not share a kitchen with

the daughter-in-law, the most devoted sisters shall not take one the bedroom and the other the living-room and stay there, and the very honeymooners shall not continue their billing and cooing if there are stockings in the basin when a fellow wants a shave. And this benighted justice thinks it will work with a husband and wife who have already made it plain that they want nothing more to do with one another.

King Solomon has a lot to answer for; but at least it should be remembered that the baby in the case was not, in the end, cut in half. Our Italian Solomon would at once have called for a carving-knife, sundered the disputed infant into two equal parts, handed one to each of the two claimants and felt that he had done a good day's work.

Possibly he hoped that in the split-level apartment proximity might lead to a reconciliation; since it was in the same proximity that the animosity had been bred, his hopes are likely to be dashed. The case should be sent back by a higher court, with instructions to the judge to order the flat to be sold and the proceeds divided exactly between husband and wife. Let us hope that he doesn't take the exactitude of the division so far as to tear the banknotes in half.

National interest at stake in Gulf

From Mr Ray Whitney, MP for Wycombe (Conservative)
Sir, After the Government's regrettable decision not to send much-needed minesweepers to the Gulf, Professor Donald Watt's call for Britain and the United States to adopt a common policy in the area ("Letting the side down", August 4) is very welcome. The pity is that so many similar calls have gone unheeded over the years.

Our refusal to help to ensure the safety of international waters only days after the Prime Minister had so strongly reaffirmed her commitment to the freedom of navigation during her Washington visit is the most striking demonstration yet of the power of anti-American sentiment in this country. The Government is now so sensitive to charges that it dances to Washington's tune that it has been led into a decision that is manifestly against our national interests.

Admirals (or, where appropriate, generals) will always emphasise the difficulties of any operation and FCO (Foreign and Commonwealth Office) officials the provocative impact it might have on a delicate situation. It is part of their duties to do so and ministers must take proper account of the case they make.

But in this instance the operational problems are very far from insuperable and it is difficult to believe that a readiness to clear mines from international waters would provoke the Iranians to more outrageous acts than they have committed already. Indeed it is more likely that this latest show of timidity and disunity among Western nations will encourage still further the hotheads in Tehran.

The Government should now

retrieve the situation by immediately seeking to develop a joint plan of action in the Gulf with the Americans and the French. In concert with our allies we might also test the sincerity of Soviet intentions by inviting them to participate.
Yours faithfully,
RAY WHITNEY,
House of Commons,
August 5.

From Mr David Howell, MP for Guildford (Conservative)
Sir, Britain's policy of "Not now, but never" in the Gulf sounds a bit like the United States in 1914 and 1939.

Eventually the Americans recognised that fanatical German expansionism and terror threatened the whole world's peace and stability, including their own, and joined in wholeheartedly.

In the same way no doubt Britain — and even her European neighbours — will come to see that the expansion of warped Islamic fanaticism is one of the chief dangers to world stability today, including Europe's, and requires the promotion, with the utmost vigour and authority, of combined inter-allied, and if possible fully international, efforts to contain the spreading poison from Iran.

That we are being complacent for standing aside in the Gulf by the Beijing Government, whose weapons are widely reported to be adding to the turmoil and disruption in the region, is perhaps further evidence that our policy needs adapting and that further endeavours in this direction by the Foreign Secretary should be strongly supported.
Yours faithfully,
DAVID HOWELL,
House of Commons,
August 6.

Scientist excluded

From Professor H. B. Barlow, FRS
Sir, One of the few encouraging features of the state of British science brought out in the Royal Society's recent report (June 30) was the existence of a healthy flow of young scientists into this country from abroad. Apparently this is now to be stopped.

A year ago I obtained funds for a research assistant and the post was advertised. Only a few responded, for there is no unemployment among those with computer skills, but one of the candidates was an able young Hungarian much more suitable for the job than any of the others.

I therefore applied for a work permit and offered him the post if this was obtained. After a delay of three months it was refused on the grounds that he was too young and not sufficiently well qualified.

It was then just three days before he became 23, the Department of Employment's critical age for granting work permits. I appealed, and now, eight months later, hear that they again refuse to grant a work permit, and once more no attempt is made to explain why they think they can judge his qualification for the job better than his prospective employer.

Disaster relief

From the Director of Cruse
Sir, Sandra Milne Henderson's letter (July 31) prompts me to share some details of Cruse's plans in regard to disaster relief. I do so partly to inform but also to attempt to avoid unnecessary duplication and to promote discussion between those concerned.

Cruse has been involved in most major disasters, starting with Aberfan in 1966. As a result of so much experience and insights gained we drew up, in 1986, a disaster plan. In brief, it proposes the establishment of a team, who would draw on the services and advice of many more, to provide immediate and long-term help following a disaster, both to those involved in care and those bereaved as a result.

The emphasis will be on the psychological, social and community needs, some of which surface only gradually, many of which persist much longer than often realised.

Our experience following the Zeebrugge tragedy has strongly

reinforced the need for such a team. Discussions are continuing with the Government and others on funding to carry out this plan.
Yours faithfully,
DEREK NUTTALL, Director,
Cruse (National organisation for the widowed and their children),
Cruse House, 126 Sheen Road,
Richmond, Surrey,
July 31.

Mecca pilgrimage

From the Secretary General of the Muslim Solidarity Committee
Sir, With reference to your report (August 4) on the Haj, the Prophet Ishmael was described as a "bastard child", yet his mother, Hagar, was called a "slave-wife".

If, as the Bible confirms, she was the Prophet Abraham's wife given to him by Sarah, you have indirectly accused the Prophet Abraham of being an adulterer, which would upset many Jews and Christians, as well as Muslims.
Yours faithfully,
S. M. T. WASTI,
Secretary General,
Muslim Solidarity Committee,
11ford House,
133-135 Oxford Street, W1,
August 5.

reinforced the need for such a team. Discussions are continuing with the Government and others on funding to carry out this plan.
Yours faithfully,
DEREK NUTTALL, Director,
Cruse (National organisation for the widowed and their children),
Cruse House, 126 Sheen Road,
Richmond, Surrey,
July 31.

VAT zero option

From Mr George J. Levy
Sir, Lord Denning (August 5) writes in connection with the zero-rating under VAT: "Parliament is still sovereign here". This is not in accord with what the Minister for the Arts, Mr Richard Luce, said last November: "In the absence of unanimity, the only way in which a decision could be imposed on member states would be by a judgment of the European Court of Justice".
Yours faithfully,
GEORGE J. LEVY,
H. Blairman & Sons Ltd,
119 Mount Street, W1,
August 5.

themselves or their colleagues. Profit from the publication is irrelevant to the real public issues. If publication is lawful, it does not become unlawful merely because the critic considers the publisher's motive disreputable.

It seems to me that Mr Lawrence overlooks the fact that these are interlocutory proceedings and that injunctive relief is discretionary. In interlocutory proceedings there is no trial of the issues. Interim injunctive relief is granted to protect a status quo capable of protection without undue damage to someone asserting an opposing claim.

If, as in the Wright case, the contents of the book are already published, the former status quo can no longer be protected. Injunctive relief (which is a very practical, workaday weapon) is, in the view of many people, no longer appropriate nor effective in this case.

Yours faithfully,
BRUCE LAUGHLAND,
4 King's Bench Walk,
Temple, EC4,
August 4.

Lord Rawlinson of Ewell's letter yesterday should have referred to "Lord Scarman et al", not to Lord Shawcross as printed.

Part solution on country jobs

From the Chief Planning Officer of Babergh District Council
Sir, Mr Derek Smith (July 21) names one of the obstacles to providing employment opportunities in redundant farm buildings as being the difficulties placed by the planning authorities. Until perhaps five years ago this may well have been the case in the Babergh district in south Suffolk.

This district is an essentially rural, very attractive and relatively prosperous area under considerable development pressure. With the decline in the national economy the council recognised the important role which local authorities have in encouraging economic recovery and, accordingly, adopted an economic development strategy.

The recently published discussion document on a local plan for the whole Babergh district contains a presumption against the granting of planning permission for the conversion of redundant buildings in the countryside to residential use. It also specifies the factors which the council will take into account to establish whether the building should more suitably be retained for employment purposes.

But if a farm building is too remote, say, from the main centre of operations to have any use for agricultural purposes, is it surprising that it is not much use for anything else? Standing serenely, often with cathedral-like proportions, in the middle of a cornfield reached by a muddy cart track, these buildings were built for agriculture, not for industry.

Here in Babergh we actively encourage farmowners to consult us first so we can weed out the blatantly unsuitable and eliminate the waste-of-time, waste-of-money exercise of "no-hope" planning applications. And for those which do have potential — and there are many — we have a modest grant scheme to encourage

How Austin began

From Mr Rodney Drake
Sir, With reference to your report on Austin cars (August 3), your readers may be interested to learn that Herbert Austin actually started making motor cars in 1898 when he was with the Wolseley Sheep Shearing Machine Company in Birmingham, which I joined in 1952 and of which I became managing director in 1953.

My father, a doctor, bought a Wolseley car from him in 1900 and drove it all the way back to Redhill, Surrey — quite a feat in those days.

In 1901 the "Wolseley Sheep" board sold that part of their business to Vickers (whence it eventually went to Morris) leaving Austin to go off and start his own factory at Longbridge. But he retained his connection with "Wolseley Sheep", using its considerable engineering skills to develop some of his prototypes and nearly bankrupting it in the process.

The company survived, however, and after the Second World War became a founder member of the Wolseley group of companies, whose shareholders are now prospering greatly — acknowledging, I trust, the wisdom of the 1901 decision!
Yours etc,
RODNEY DRAKE,
Far Leys,
Tapworth-in-Arden,
Warwickshire,
August 4.

Archer libel case

From Mr Jack Bell
Sir, The General Secretary of the Institute of Journalists (August 4) is against restriction of the press, intended to protect citizens from unprincipled false attacks, because it would also seriously hamper newspapers' ability to expose corruption and other forms of wrongdoing.

So am I. But in most professions there is a code of ethics and a system of self-regulation to ensure that it is complied with. Yes, the code may be breached, but there is condign punishment for those who do.

Does not the Institute of Journalists have such a code? If it does, why cannot it regulate the behaviour of its members? If it does not...?
Yours faithfully,
JACK BELL,
58 Priory Crescent, SE19,
August 4.

All in a row

From Lieutenant R. P. Hurley, RN
Sir, As a naval officer and a classicist, I was delighted with your photograph (August 4) of a reconstructed Athenian trireme, which united so eloquently my two vocations.

The rowing routines, described in your article, which were stretching the skills of modern British oarsmen, reminded me of the dedication demanded from ancient Athenian mariners for trireme manoeuvres by their leader Pericles, as reported in Thucydides I, 142, 9.

Seamanship is a skill just like anything else, and it is impossible to perform it proficiently as a hap-hazard, spare-time activity. In fact it leaves no spare time for anything else.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT HARLEY,
The Officers' Mess,
RAF Newton, Nottingham,
August 5.

speculative diversification projects: a step-by-step guide on the processes involved (building regulations, what services are required, car parking standards, etc. etc).

We will discuss proposals on site, suggest contacts for further advice, and give assistance in finding tenants from our lists of small firms looking for premises and through our vacant land and premises register.

Of course, car repairers in every covey are out of the question, but there are many quiet industries which can be harmlessly tucked away in odd corners of the countryside, and we have many examples to prove the point.
Yours faithfully,

G. E. SWAIN,
Chief Planning Officer,
Babergh District Council,
Planning Department,
Corks Lane, Hadleigh,
Ipswich, Suffolk,
July 27.

ON THIS DAY

AUGUST 8 1821

Queen Caroline of Brunswick (1782-1821) married the future King George IV in 1795 but within a year they separated and she went abroad. When he became king in 1820 she was refused admission to Westminster Abbey for the coronation. The Times eventually championed her cause.

LONDON, WEDNESDAY, August 8, 1821

The tragedy of the persecutions and death of a QUEEN is at length brought to its awful close; and thousands — we may say millions — of eyes will be suffused in tears, when they shall read in this column that CAROLINE OF BRUNSWICK is no more. The greatest, perhaps the best woman of her day, sunk by what may be called a premature death, at twenty-five minutes past ten yesterday evening.

Her illustrious daughter — the only object, in truth, for which the mother wished to live — died three years and nine months before her end, in their persons, a branch the most illustrious of the reigning House of England, and the closest to the Royal stem, which, under happier auspices and more kindly treatment, might have given future EDWARDS and HENRIES and ELIZABETHS, to the country, is for ever and ever cut off. How the surviving members of the Royal Family may feel on this portentous occurrence, we know not; but the nation, which, during the sufferings of the QUEEN, evinced its loyalty to her person and its admiration of her character, feels now widowed by her death; the politicians must perceive with some anxiety, that the destinies of the monarchy are now transferred to, and wound up with, the life of an infant girl. Sound be her frame, and lengthened be her days! But the nation has once already too fondly indulged hopes resting on such a basis, to repose implicit confidence in that which a sorrowful experience, as well as reason hath taught it to be so frail.

THE QUEEN — we will not say that she was in her last moments deserted by her friends or kinsfolk; they who had long deserted her came not near her even at that affecting crisis. The official forms of the Court were neglected in her case; and no other announcement of the state of her malady was given to the anxious people, than that which private friendship and unshaken devotion afforded — but her MAJESTY was sustained by the consciousness of innocence, she was soothed by the consolations of religion; and that firm courage which a benevolent Providence had so amply supplied to her, and all the members of her suffering race, did not desert her when she came to struggle with the last enemy of our nature. She died as she had lived, a Christian heroine, and a martyr. We must refer to another part of the journal for the details of this affecting subject.

HER MAJESTY'S enemies, we believe, are appalled at the unexpected event. They look at each other with inquiring faces — "We did not do it?" Not the last stroke was a merciful dispensation, and was therefore none of yours. Whatever comfort you may derive from this reflection, seize it with avidity, and enjoy the meagre feast. But time wears away space, and your day of account draws near. Then, then, when the charge of hastening the QUEEN'S end shall be brought against you by that Being who knows "whereof we are made," and perceives by what secret operations of the mind the body is gradually worn down, or abruptly shattered into its original dust, — then urge the extenuating plea, "Thou canst not say we did it." And there may that plea avail! But as the first step to repentance here, is the knowledge of the offence, we must for your future good inform you, that however undamned was the courage of her MAJESTY, yet that the cruelty of her enemies, the ingratitude of her friends, and the general baseness of Courtiers, did at times most deeply prey upon her spirits, and imparting incessant shocks to a frame, did there occasion symptoms and affections which were likely to lead to this result.

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At the

des Bremner

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August 8-14, 1987

SATURDAY

A WEEKLY GUIDE TO LEISURE
ENTERTAINMENT AND THE ARTS

At the Oshkosh plane parade

For the past week,
nearly a million
air enthusiasts
have descended
on their Mecca —
a small mid-west
American town.
Charles Bremner
joined the flock

Bob Wagner, a chubby 46-year-old, hurls his red-painted old Stearman, the monster of biplanes, into an astonishing series of rolls, loops, dives and low upside-down passes. These, impressive enough in themselves, are all the more remarkable for the fact that his wife, Pat, is standing on top of the wing. The crowd holds its breath as the inverted Mrs Wagner whizzes past, taking the salute like a circus trapeze artist.

"You have to imagine riding a motor bike at about 75 miles an hour, then imagine doing that upside down at twice the speed," Pat says. Bob merely remarks that wind resistance from his wife takes 25 per cent of his Pratt and Whitney engine's 450 horsepower. The pair have been doing it for a decade and say they cannot imagine any other life. For the past week, their life has been centred in Oshkosh, Wisconsin.

Muslims go to Mecca. Aviators go to Oshkosh. For one week every year, thousands of aeroplanes, from tiny home-builts to multi-engine jets, float out of the sky on to the old airfield in this mid-western country town for the world's largest celebration of flying. Almost one million people have swarmed to Wittman Field for the past seven days to take part in the Experimental Aircraft Association's Convention and Fly-in, not so much an air show as a pilgrimage of kindred spirits.

If you are a plane enthusiast, Oshkosh is where you overdo. For sheer spectacle and wonder, nothing can compare with the flying machines that assemble here and the displays that fill the sky every afternoon.

This is the place you come to see a Boeing 727 dance in the sky, to watch a twin-engine transport plane looping and rolling with the agility of a biplane, to hear and feel the thundering roar as a squadron of surviving Second World War Mustang fighters swoop on the crowd escorting a B-17 bomber.

The fly-in was started 35



Close-up on a flight of fancy: spectators home in on a Sky Raider, one of the smaller visitors to Oshkosh, where passenger jets rub wings with microlites and the old with the new

years ago to gather home-builders and amateur aviators. Now it has become the rallying-place for the people who love flying, while Pat and Whitney engine's 450 horsepower. The pair have been doing it for a decade and say they cannot imagine any other life. For the past week, their life has been centred in Oshkosh, Wisconsin.

The pilots at Oshkosh are the romantics who believe flying is a constitutional right threatened by government regulation and public fears about mid-air collisions and over-crowded skies. But they are by no means all amateurs. Association members include astronauts and many airline captains who cannot get enough of flying in the course of their work to be truly satisfied. They are people like Don Davidson, a 48-year-old Eastern Airlines pilot who roared in aboard his Mustang. "You can talk of marriage," he says, "but this is a marriage based on real love."

Looking at the thousands of private planes stretching as far as the eye can see, you would not know that light aviation, once thought to be within reach of everyone, is suffering

a period of crisis brought on by the huge costs. Cessna and Piper, the leading manufacturers of the main small craft of the 1960s and '70s, have stopped producing their simple single-engine planes. Law suits over liability for crashes has made it uneconomical. Only a few new planes made in the US cost under \$100,000, although the used-aircraft market still offers what would be considered bargains in Britain.

"The enthusiasm and love are still there," says Tom Poberezny, head of the convention, one of the EAA's founder and one of three pilots in the Eagles aerobatic team which performs hair-raising stunts with high-powered biplanes every afternoon.

"It's not an air show or a convention," he says. "The real story is all the friendship. Look at the camp site. For example, you'll find a family from California that comes and camps with a family from New Jersey every year. It's a family affair."

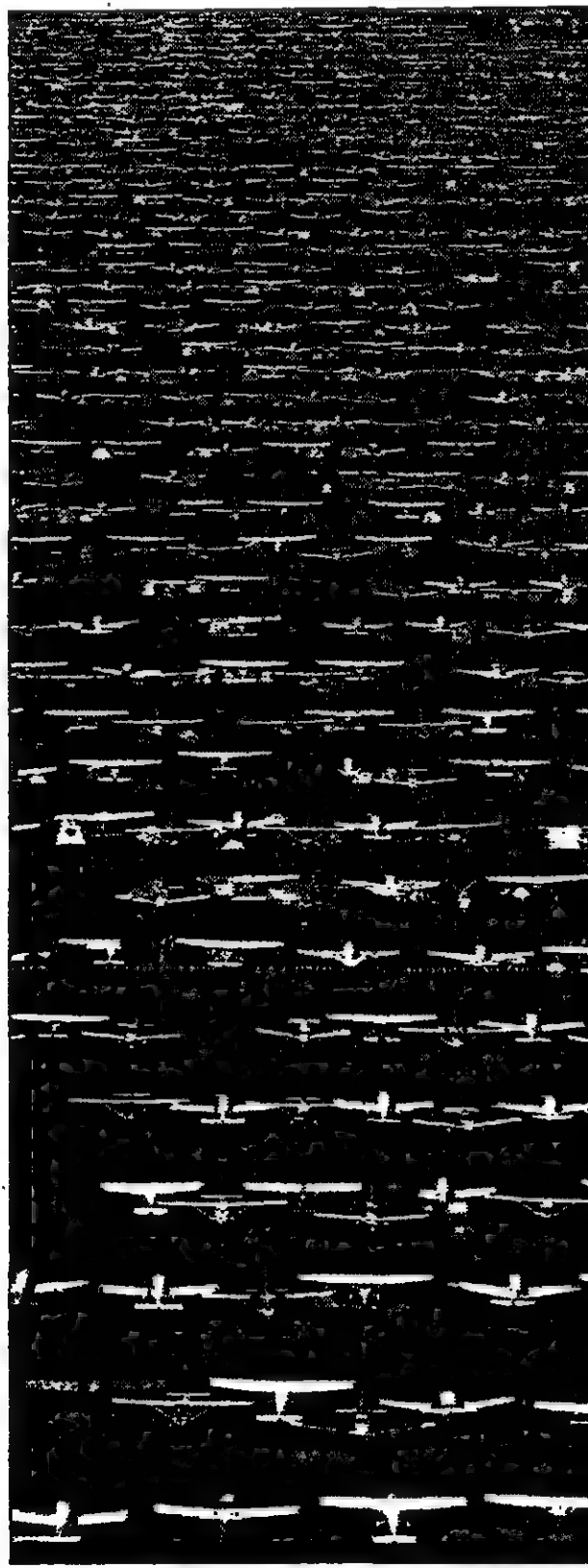
The atmosphere of good humour impresses the foreigners who flocked this year from Australia, Japan and all over Europe. Charles Smith-Maxwell, from Selkirk in Scotland, marvels at the tidiness. "There's not a piece of litter, not a cross word from anybody. You'd never see that in the UK." A pilot, he now wants to build his own plane and has come to Oshkosh to find the best model.

For the week of the show, Oshkosh becomes the world's busiest airport — four times busier than America's biggest — as volunteer controllers from the Federal Aviation Agency marshal the stream of planes, sometimes bunched so close that they are told to land simultaneously, one on the runway threshold, the other half-way up.

Controllers do away with the formalities of identification and acknowledgment. "Yellow Cessna, taildragger, rock your wings if you read me," the tower says to one of four planes on the approach. "Piper Twin, slow down and let that guy land first."

A mixture of the ancient and modern, almost everything that has ever left the ground, comes to Oshkosh in some form. Parked in one field, polished and gleaming and as far as the eye can see, are muscular old Stearman, magnificent dark red pre-war Sunsons, as well as Wacos, Ercoups and Taylorcraft — names of long defunct marques as evocative as Bugatti or Studebaker for a car enthusiast. There is even a Ford Tri-motor, the airliner of the Twenties and the embodiment of nostalgia, that has flown in to park near an even older Curtiss Jenny, the American First World War plane beloved of the barnstormers who once wowed small-town crowds with their roof-topping antics.

At the other end, you can see a British-designed Harrier



Birds of a feather flock together: the packed Wittman airfield

or equally modern Voyager, the frail propeller-driven plane that took Dick Rutan and Jeanna Yeager on their non-stop, round-the-world trip earlier this year. The pair are on hand to sing the praises of their craft, which itself was born of the Oshkosh spirit. Its designer, Burt Rutan, is the man whose generation of futuristic-shaped planes has made home-building the most thriving sector of the small aircraft business.

In a different part of the field, the sky is abuzz with swooping microlites — or

ultralights, as they are known here — many of them looking like their 70-year-old spindly predecessors a few hundred yards away. These cloth and tubing contraptions seemed to hold promise as the path to aviation for everyone when they emerged at Oshkosh in the late 1970s. Craft like the sturdy Eipper Quicksilver gave many people their first taste of solo flying.

But the tide has turned against them. Apart from the fact that ear-splitting noise and slow flight detracted from their charm, many proved

dangerous. They have lost something of their original simplicity now that designers have begun closing in cockpits and adding controls and instruments that turn them into "real aeroplanes".

You can still fly an ultralight without a licence, one of the things that makes America a private pilot's paradise. But the talk of Oshkosh this week has been the threat of further restrictions to conventional small aeroplanes flying after the spate of collisions and near-misses in recent months. Pilots have been busy signing petitions against a new proposal for special radar transponders and an extension to tightly-controlled air space near large airports.

Allan McArthur, the former pilot just appointed by President Reagan to head the FAA and handle the overcrowding crisis, was at Oshkosh praising the spirit of the private flyers. If people had the idea that he was just a desk-bound Washington bureaucrat, he dispelled them on Monday by taking the co-pilot's seat in a Shrike Commander Twin, a small passenger plane, as the veteran show pilot Bob Hoover threw it into a sequence of death-defying stunts.

Hoover's speciality is his "energy management" number, in which he dives the Shrike, switches off both engines, loops, performs a four-point roll, lands and judges the whole manoeuvre so that he has just enough speed left to taxi up to the foot of the commentary stand without starting the engines again.

More heart-stopping for the spectators are the airshow cowboys who come straight from the barnstorming days of Waldo Pepper. But the show is one thing. For many at Oshkosh, the fly-in's main attraction is the chance to revel in the camaraderie of a shared passion. These are the home-builders and restorers both of classic civil planes and the huge "warbird" craft whose owners affect a military air and belong to groups like the "Confederate Air Force".

Nearly 500 "custom-built" small planes, polished and gleaming, competed for prizes this year. They are owned by people from a bewildering variety of backgrounds, including truck-drivers, dentists, teachers, salesmen, lawyers and professional pilots.

Donna Wilhelmsen, who helped her electrical engineer husband, Jack, build their two-seater in their South Carolina garage, says many marriages do not withstand the rivalry of a home-built plane. "When the FAA inspector came to certify it and we told him it only took two-and-a-half years, he said that was unusual because it normally takes from five to seven years — and one wife."

construction or restoration, or attending the forums on subjects like making better landings, or tracking down vital but rare parts for engines which have long been obsolete.

Given the number of planes swarming around Wittman Field, there are remarkably few accidents. Tom Poberezny and his father, Paul, who founded the EAA, insist on strict safety standards to avoid the kind of disastrous publicity that would stem from a big accident. This year only two real mishaps occurred in all the tens of thousands of aircraft movements. A woman's arm was badly cut by a propeller and a plane with floats was damaged when the pilot forgot to lower its wheels before landing.

The Poberezny's believe the spirit of amateur aviation is a reflection of American democracy. "We have it better than most countries," Tom says. "If you give up these rights, that's the first step to losing your freedom."

FLIGHT PRICE ADVICE

Almost everything about private flying is easier in the US than in Britain. Despite recent price increases, planes, petrol, lessons and facilities are still less expensive and with 705,000 active pilots, 308,000 of them "private", the country offers an extensive array of services for aviators.

Among the advantages are a huge network of radio navigational aids, free high-quality weather briefings, low or non-existent landing fees and hundreds of airfields across the country. David Harvey, a British instructor at Freeway Airport outside Washington, sings the praises of American aviation. "Everyone is so poor in Britain the aircraft are usually shabby. Aircraft here tend to be nice and modern and well-equipped." Learning to fly and owning your own plane is still possible for Americans with a middle income.

For example, lessons in a Cessna 152 at Freeway cost \$53 (about £33) per hour and you can rent a four-cylinder 172 for yourself at \$44 (£27.50) per hour, excluding the cost of fuel. British prices are about a third higher.

Although the prices of new planes have rocketed beyond the reach of most people since the insurance crisis forced the major manufacturers to suspend production, you can pick up a five-year-old Cessna 172 for about \$15,000 (£9,375). "It will cost about \$1,000 (£625) a year to keep it in good order and you can run it for the same price as a car," Harvey says. You can rent a "parking place" in an airfield for \$40 (£25) a month. Insurance can be a snag, though, especially for new pilots. Companies can charge up to \$2,500 (£1,500) a year for a recently qualified aviator.

Obtaining the basic pilot's ticket, which entitles you to fly in visual-flight conditions, as opposed to the far more demanding instrument regime, means following a course similar to that in Britain. After about 40 hours in the air and passing a fairly demanding written test, most students are ready to fly with the instructor.

A Briton switching to the American system makes a few transitions. He has to get used to speaking a different language. Almost every private flyer seems to be imitating Chuck Yeager or the iconic, right-staff NASA style. In Britain, you ask politely for the "runway in service" as you approach an airport. In America, to find which is the active runway, you just shout "Waaaaa- active!"

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Full guide to the weekend's TV and radio: page 21

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David Collier

Edited by Shona Crawford Poole

TRAVEL

Low season, high living

The Costa del Sol retains its magic best in the off-season and on the right stretch of coast, says Pearson Phillips

The grilled, king-sized prawns are almost a fiver each at the Red Pepper restaurant in Puerto Banus. But a table there provides a riddle as to why it is so expensive. It happens at around 11.30pm, a time still considered to be evening on the Costa del Sol.

First one Rolls-Royce mutters along the quayside, edging through the strollers. Then another, and another, a procession of them, punctuated by the occasional Ferrari. At the wheels are big, brouzed, king-sized men. "We call it the parade of the gangsters," an expatriate stalwart of the Marbella Cricket Club informed me.

This strip of coast has a long history of attracting adventurers from distant lands. A thousand years ago it was the Wild West of the Muslim Empire. The Caliph of Cordoba had 6,300 female slaves in his harem, collected in Northern Europe and sent down with the eunuchs in huge caravans. A similar population movement is still pouring Northern bodies into "Moorish-style" sun palaces, only now it is called the package tourist industry. The "Marbella Blonde" is everywhere: streaked hair, brown skin and thin, white shoulder straps.

The Costa del Sol is not a destination that first comes into the minds of those who consider themselves discerning travellers. It suggests too many people attacking too many knickerbocker glories. Even the jet-set Marbella Club has changed since Prince Alfonso von Hohenlohe had to sell control to an Arab consortium.

Barratt, "Britain's Premier House Builders", has saturated the area with offers of commemorative quartz "timepieces" to anyone who will spare the time to look at one of its "multi-ownership leisure complexes", the latest euphemism for a timeshare development. Driving west out of Malaga Airport is like hitting Hammerstein flyover in the rush hour. The cranes are still piling up more multi-storey blocks in Torremolinos, Benalmadena, Fuengirola...

But I have a confession to make. I live here. There are two secrets

to getting the most out of it. The first is to avoid the high season. Spring and autumn are best. The average monthly temperature is still above 80 degrees in September and the first part of October, with an average of 8.7 hours of sun a day. It is the ideal setting for one of those all-action breaks, with tennis, golf, swimming, sailing, water-skiing, riding and good eating.

The second secret is to head for the western end of the coast. All the developers' cranes and the concrete-pouring used to stop at Estepona, midway between Fuengirola and the Rock. But the opening of the Gibraltar border last year has put this area within easy reach of Gibraltar Airport. That has encouraged a new rash of beach complexes, marinas, instant Andalusian ports, air-conditioned squash courts and all the other necessities demanded by northern leisure seekers. But it is not yet Torremolinos and the property boom means that there are villas and flats for letting.

My last stay here was in a ground-floor apartment in a new, ambitious development called Puerto Sotogrande. Hedges shielded our stretch of automatically sprinklered lawn from our neighbours. At breakfast on the terrace we looked over the Guadaira River to the distant shape of the Rock. There was a beach club with pool next door. At 10am retired English gentlemen queued at the corner shop to buy the previous day's English newspapers.

We could share some of the ambience of Sotogrande itself, an up-market enclave on the other side of the river for people who don't mind spending £150,000 on a plot of land and another £150,000 to build something on it. There are two golf courses, one of which has been bought by Jaime Párraga, a local resident, for the exclusive use of a well-versed membership. Slumming it on the other course for a £35 green fee (including compulsory insurance) I was able to peer into the surrounding gardens at scenes of Gatsby-like life.

One English resident uses Gibraltar Airport and travels to work in London each Monday morning,



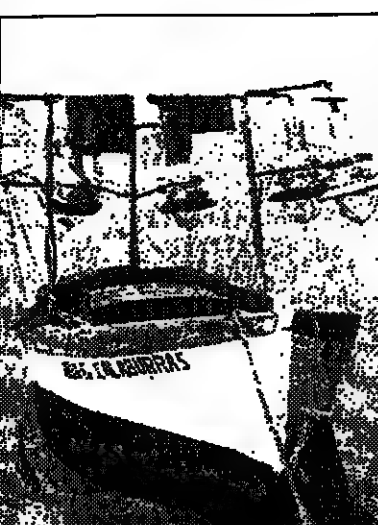
Local colour on the Costa: at Fuengirola, entertainers ply their trade while, right, a boat bobs in the harbour

returning to his palm-fringed bit of paradise on Friday evenings. There are all the amenities of the better parts of the Shires, including a polo ground and a hunt, run by an English major.

It is a good base from which to explore the old Muslim fortresses and fortified townships of the "real" Andalusia inland. I drove up through olive groves, almond orchards and vineyards to the hilltop town of Arcos de la Frontera. The most dramatic road leads to Ronda, with its so-called "New Bridge", a

remarkable piece of 18th-century engineering across a deep chasm.

Getting the best out of the local restaurants also calls for a car. The international set favour Robbies, run by a Scotsman in the back streets of Estepona. But our best discovery was a seaside fishing village, so far without a trace of "development", called Castillo de Duquesa, to the west of Estepona. It is reached by a small road that branches off the main coast road beside the remains of a large, round castle. There are several seafood



Local colour on the Costa: at Fuengirola, entertainers ply their trade while, right, a boat bobs in the harbour

restaurants by the beach. The best is the Hachamar, a place always encouragingly full of Spaniards.

For those who cannot resist at least one foray into the tourist glitter of Marbella and Puerto Banus, there is one place that should not be missed. Remember a Sixties group, Dave Dee, Dozy, Beaky, Mick and Tich? Four of the five are alive and well and running a bar in Puerto Banus, a haven of Sixties nostalgia. When they take the stand to play some of their old numbers even the over-forties start rocking.

Money-saver fare (Sept 15-Oct 31) is £153 and £170 at weekends. Cars can be hired at Gibraltar Airport and driven into Spain. Budget Rent-A-Car charges from £109 a week. Europcar (£1-950 5050) will have a car waiting at Malaga Airport. One week's unlimited mileage costs £116, payable in sterling in advance. The Spanish National Tourist Office, 67 St James's Street, London SW1 (01-499 0901) will provide information on Andalusian festivals.

Breathe easy

Smoke hoods designed to assist breathing for long enough to escape from a burning aeroplane or building are now available for holiday hire. A fortnight's rental costs £4.90 inclusive of postage, plus a refundable deposit of £15 against late or non-return. Survival Smoke Hoods, 5 Hillrise, Twyford, Hampshire SO21 1QH (0962 712921).

The Vivat fire and smoke escape hoods, which weigh about 70g, come in a package measuring 18.5 x 14 x 0.5cm. Frequent fliers may prefer to have their own from the manufacturer, Cybertronics, PO Box 8, Twyford, Berkshire, RG10 9LF (062882 4111). The cost is £21.85, including VAT and postage.

Teeing off

In its new brochure, Longshot Golf Holidays swings half-way round the world to offer sporting breaks as far east as Thailand. Going west, it features golfing in Bermuda, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, as well as greens closer to home in Spain, Portugal, France, Italy and Morocco. The course at Wyndham Rose Hall Golf Club in Jamaica looks like good walking country, dramatically hilly and untamed. Prices range from £155 for a self-catering week, exclusive of green fees, in Portugal to £669 for an autumn week in Jamaica with B & B and golf at Wyndham Rose Hall. Inquiries and reservations on 0738 66561.

Bartholomew's Mini Atlas of Britain (£2.95) takes the fight out of trying to consult a flapping map on a windy day or in a confined space. This pocket-sized book of road maps could be a boon to navigators exposed to the elements on motorcycle pilgrims or in open sports cars. At nine miles to the inch, the scale is too small to be useful to cyclists or walkers.

Souvenir passport

Scotland Yard has admitted that the British bobby is a tourist attraction and to prove it the Met has written a welcome message in the new fun Holiday Passports available at £1 from souvenir shops, hotels and tourist attractions in London and

countrywide. More than 2,000 organizations from the Tower of London to Covent Garden, by way of pubs, hotels, restaurants and even a chiropractor, will stamp the passports to make each page a personal souvenir. The scheme was designed for foreign visitors, but it is my bet that the youngsters among stay-at-home holiday-makers will enjoy filling in their passports just as much.

● Bon or not-so-bon voyage? Here is the shipping forecast for ferry passengers contemplating a Channel crossing on the Portsmouth to Cherbourg route in the next 24 hours. It will be rather choppy towards the French coast and poor sailors may feel the effects of ship motion. Ferryroll on 0898 500449 is the latest service from the Meteorological Office. Predictions of weather conditions on deck as well as the ships' motion are updated twice daily at 7am and 7pm. The calls are charged at 38p per minute, except evenings and weekends when the cost drops to 25p.

TRAVEL BOOKS

There are places, even in the British Isles, where understanding something of the people and their ways is the key to appreciating the country. Alison Johnson, a Hebridean Islander by adoption, arrived as a teacher and stayed as an hotelier. *A House By The Shore* (Futura, £3.50) is her account of island life off the north-west coast of Scotland. It is recommended reading for everyone who dreams of getting away from it all to self-sufficiency and one-ness with nature as well as for visitors. In making and fishing with lobster pots and cutting peat she explores the customs and courtesies of Gaelic-speaking neighbours.

Londoner Alan Booth went to Japan to study Noh theatre in 1970 and stayed on. *The Roads to Sata* (Penguin, £3.95) is an account of the 2,000 miles he walked, crossing three islands on his route from Soya in the north to Kochi in the far south. He took country roads and talked on the way with people from all walks of Japanese life. In the retelling he has written an often funny as well as living picture of modern Japan.

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DRINK

Temperature and humidity can make soufflés slump and pastry limp. But Frances Bissell has some solutions, whatever the weather

THE ARTS

Strange heroes

Hollywood breeds strange heroes, but stranger still is the apparently bottomless well of interest they will always generate. The *BKO Story*, *Howard's Way* (BBC) and *Hollywood Heroes* (Channel Four) were both concerned with men whose reputations have placed them on the borders of mythology. In the last of the series about the RKO studios, the ultimately eccentric and evasive Howard Hughes came under the spotlight. His is always a good tale, and his role as one of the final proprietors of the studio gave his obsessive behaviour great scope.

TELEVISION

Although self-proclamatory in a particularly American way, the programme lived up to its initial boast to include some fascinating interviews with film stars involved in the Howard regime. He would appear at the dinner table as an unannounced third party when Janet Leigh was out on a date and he drew detailed sketches of how he wished Jean Simmons' perfect lips to look. Nothing, though, concerned him so much as the voluptuous Jane Russell's bosom. As chief target of his proprietorial behaviour, she described his attempts to design a seamless bra for her or to make her dance in a minuscule bikini with the wearied manner of someone recalling a tiresome, demanding child.

Steve McQueen, the subject of *Hollywood Heroes*, had two things in common with Hughes. He loved the thrill generated by speed (Hughes flew planes, McQueen drove bikes and cars) and like Hughes he regarded all women as "broads". With a compelling face that looked bruised by experience right from the start, he eventually became one of Hollywood's chief financial assets. While Jane Russell was wanted as a walking, talking cleavage, McQueen also became chained to an image, that of "the macho man who dared to be tender".

Alexandra Shulman

Enter the outsider

When Kenneth Branagh played Henry at Stratford, he took the stage as if he owned it. Bryan Appleyard talks to one of the theatre's brightest young hopes



Branagh... an "acting animal" who knows where he was going and how to take the audience along with him

At 13 he wrote the *Reading Evening Post* complaining about their failure to cover children's books. He was made the paper's reviewer, writing a *Junior Bookshelf* column for three years, and the notion grew that he would become a journalist. But he suspected he could never take the grind of working his way up through locals and, besides, he had been bitten by theatre.

As his A levels approached, his father wearily tried to persuade him to do some work. But he just scraped through, having been unable to put theatre to one side. Luckily, he was accepted at RADA, Crutwell, who was at his first audition, played it cool, telling Branagh: "Acting like that comes ten-a-penny." But he now admits that something special was clearly happening. The place at the school was never in doubt and Crutwell was to become a central influence.

In his last term at RADA, Branagh was cast for a BBC "Play for Today" by Graham Reid called *Too Late to Talk to Billy*, which

turned out to be the first of a trilogy. Then, almost at once, he was cast for the West End production of Julian Mitchell's *Another Country*. The play had been running at Greenwich and there had been uncertainty about the move to the West End. Some cast changes were insisted upon — which is where Branagh came in.

With all the casual presumption of youth, Branagh simply took it in his stride. It was just another part. The critics saw it differently. Of Branagh's performance, Irving Wardle remembers: "He was a great discovery, appearing suddenly out of nowhere, fully matured."

"He was a bit of an outsider when he first arrived," recalls David Parfitt, who was also in the cast. "We all used to kid Rupert Everett that this new boy would put him in the shade. He was one of the lads after about a week, though." In fact, Branagh's reputation has been established almost entirely in

heavyweight theatre, contrasting strongly with the stardom cultivated by Everett through films, pop records and the gossip columns.

Branagh began his six-month run in the show with studious devotion. Rising late, eating sensible breakfasts and resting during the day, it was a regime that exhausted him. So, as time wore on, he joined the rest of the cast in lunchtime productions. He discovered that the more he did, the more he could do. "Mind you," he says, "looking back at it now, perhaps I should have been clubbing it every night. It might be my only West End run."

The next year was taken up with television, a period which left him frustrated and feeling starved of the theatre and "real acting". With increasingly typical confidence he organized a one-man show for himself which involved reading the 1,400 lines of Tennyson's *Maud*. It was seen by two RSC casting directors, leading to *Henry V*.

Again Branagh was, at first, amazed. It was a part and he'd

got it. Indeed at Stratford on the first night Anthony Sher recalled him "strolling around that famous stage as if born on it".

Henry at Stratford and the Barbican took up '84 and '85. As the run progressed, Branagh started working on a play of his own. The play was *Tell Me Honestly*, and it was produced at Newcastle as part of a festival.

At the same time he was beginning to think of creating his own company — an idea that clearly raised institutional hackles at the RSC.

"When I left Stratford in '85 Terry Hands said he would give me one piece of advice: 'Don't do it.' He added that Ian McKellen had tried it three times and failed — I disagree with that, incidentally — and it would ruin my acting. That frightened me. It's not often said, but it's behind many directors' attitudes."

But he did finally go ahead, putting Renaissance together with radically pro-actor gestures like asking Judi Dench to direct *Much Ado About Nothing* and Geraldine McEwan to do the same with *As You Like It*. "It's marvellous to be able to do something for ourselves," McEwan says. "It's a minor revolution, really." Branagh has put in around £250,000 of his own money and is raising the remainder of the £250,000 needed from private sources.

Although Branagh will not come out and say it explicitly, he clearly has little time for the directing mentality. "I'd much rather be just an actor. I'd love someone to come along and tell me just to play these parts and give all your energy to this company. But the atmosphere doesn't seem right for that to happen. I've talked to a lot of actors who were at the Olivier company at the National — John Stride, Charles Kay and so on — and you can smell that place and feel the quality of the work. I would die for a company like that."

"We miss somebody like Olivier or Gielgud. They were beacons and they knew what it was like to be an actor. I want a few heroes, but I look around and they're not there. But now I really think we are at the beginning of something else."

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Public Enemy by Kenneth Branagh runs at the Lyric Theatre, Hammer-smith until August 15. The Renaissance season then continues at Riverside Studios, Hammer-smith, with John Sessions' *The Life of Napoleon*.

Porgy lives

OPERA

Porgy and Bess
Glyndebourne

The miracle has survived, more or less intact. Trevor Nunn's great-hearted production again manages to buzz with multifarious vitality (it is a triumphant ensemble effort), yet also to focus keenly on the heart of Gershwin's opera.

Most of last year's cast has returned to recreate Catfish Row on the Sussex downs. There is Gregg Baker's Crown, a powerhouse of malevolence, yet more subtly menacing with Cynthia Haymon's fragile, appealing Bess on Kittiwah Island; and Damon Evans's credibly low-key Sportin' Life.

Willard White's Porgy is a portrayal he will never better. His delivery of the "Buzard Song" exactly caught the mixture of massive inner strength and innocence (in both spiritual and worldly matters) that gives the figure its tragic stature.

Porgy's female complement is probably not the flawed Bess but the stoic Serena, again sung by Cynthia Clary with magnificent vibrancy.

But the biggest change is that of conductor, and this, regrettably, seems to have lessened the evening's impact. Richard Bradshaw's reading does not lack orchestral power, but his uncomfortable choice of speeds — frenetically fast in the opening prelude, and pushing through "Bess, You Is My Woman" with little poetry, yet stolidly lagging behind the singers elsewhere — occasionally created ragged ensemble and dampened slightly the LPO's exuberant playing.

In one aspect, though, this revival gains over last year's staging: the ambience of Gershwin's fiftieth anniversary surrounds it. To experience this moving *Porgy* amid the current blitz of schmaltz coming from television and concert platform is to measure the extraordinary leap in ambition, imagination and genuine feeling that Gershwin made just once in his life.

Richard Morrison

Don Quixote in
Sierra Morena
Buxton Festival

Among Handel's contemporaries, Francesco Cesti was all the rage in Vienna for a few years. His *Don Quixote* opera seems to have been his major success and is therefore an obvious choice for the kind of revival that the Buxton Festival does so well. And the success of the work — apparently not staged since the 1730s — is largely due to the winning performance of Neil Archer in the title role. He has mastered exactly the right combination of knockabout farce, pathos and sheer lunacy that make Quixote so sympathetic. And he sings with the exceptional flexibility and clarity of line that the music demands, with immaculate clear and witty diction as well as a supreme control of the melodic style.

Anthony Hese provided a sensible translation, filled the work down to reasonable length and conducted with an evident enthusiasm to which the Manchester Camerata responded well if somewhat roughly. Michael Gellert's production was plainly under-rehearsed and will take a few performances to settle down; it must in any case have been difficult to assemble. But Roger Butler's evocative single set, imaginatively lit by Chris Parry, made an immediate impact, as did Annette Stubbs's delightful costumes — I particularly like the delicious moments when Rosa Mannon's Dorotea, dressed as a gangster's moll, donned a headpiece of plastic fruit to impersonate the Queen of Mimosicoma.

Eirian Davies is a natural for the difficult music of Lucinda created for Maria Landini, the composer's wife, though she sometimes over-stretched herself in her embellishments. Timothy Wilson as her lover Cardenio showed a superb gift for this kind of music. Roger Bryson was splendidly bluff and lucid as Sancho Panza. Adrian Thompson, Meryl Dwyer, Jonathan Kenny and Anthony Michaels-Moore were excellent in smaller roles.

David Fallows

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DANCE

Sounds off...

Strong Language
Battersea Park

It probably needed some strong language before the dancers got it together, but otherwise the title of Richard Alston's new work for Ballet Rambert's two weeks in the Battersea Park tent must relate to some of the more vigorous movement in it. Eleven dancers are involved, and Alston is never at a loss to keep them in continuous permutations for almost all of 30 minutes.

His choreography recalled in places a work he made for Extempore Dance Theatre a couple of years ago called *Cutter* and it has the same composer of accompanying electronic sounds in John-Marc Gowan. These are not sufficiently memorable to recall whether the pitched and pitchless pulses are, in fact, the same sounds.

Sometimes the movement takes its impetus from the repetitious ostinato rhythms, at other times the dancing is in



counterpoint to them, like the opening sequence for Mary Evelyn and Mark Baldwin as a more stable couple among the shifting patterns of the others. When the images multiply to five and sixes the resulting ensemble work is often exhilarating.

Their presentation is better served by Peter Mumford's lighting than by the clothes design credited to Katharine Hammett. The unchanging black of their colour imparts a depressingly institutional effect as well as doing little for the bodies inside.

That the dancers manage to overcome this is due to the clarity and individual weight of each image and its placing among the rest. They tell no story, or even achieve much variety of character, but as dancing for its own sake it is easier to enjoy with the eye than to feel attracted through the ear.

Some technical limitations of the stage here have meant a change in the triple bill that continues through to Monday. Christopher Bruce's *Dancing Day* has replaced his *Night With Waning Moon*, of which

the more elaborate stage design could not be properly shown. The former's gentle pastoral pleasures to songs by Holst, with Nicholas Carr smoothly directing the six singers and solo violin, conceals a deeper choreographic artistry than might be thought.

It complements the opening *Dipping Wings* led by Mary Evelyn in her own choreography, in which bodies aspire to flight and become a metaphor for the human condition as they flock together and separate in pairs or alone.

Noel Goodwin

Fledermaus wings back

A new production of *Die Fledermaus* will be introduced at the Welsh National Opera autumn season this year.

There will also be revivals of *Fidelio*, *The Cunning Little Vixen* and *The Marriage of Figaro*.

Die Fledermaus (September 9) marks the British opera debut of producer Helmut Polixa. Suzanne Murphy is Rosalinde. It will be conducted by György Fischer.

Harry Kupfer's production of *Fidelio* (September 18) has Welsh soprano Mary Lloyd-Davies as Leonore and Anthony Roden as Florestan. The cast also includes Anne Williams-King (Marzelline), Timothy German (Jacquino), Claude Corbell (Rocco), Adalbert Waller (Pizarro) and Henry Newman (Don Fernando).



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Out of harmony

PROMENADE
CONCERT

BBCSSO/Hurst
Albert Hall/
Radio 3

The Royal Blue banners of the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra hung proudly from the organ console and the pit and stalls were healthily full of both Scots and Sassenachs. But what was clearly intended to be a festive prom failed to fulfil its promise, for all the many fine qualities shown by the orchestra, and particularly its creamy woodwind section, under the direction of George Hurst.

Hurst is one of those conductors who has been consistently underrated, perhaps partly because of his undemonstrative manner. In Dvorák's Cello Concerto, his soloist was Mischa Maisky, a man of very different character. He came to the podium with a formidable reputation,

gained not least through his recent recordings, a wonderful, wood-flavoured singing tone, and an uncompromising frame of mind.

The results were predictably ill-balanced. Hurst had understandable difficulty in coping with some of Maisky's tempo fluctuations, particularly in the first movement, while throughout Maisky tried to inject the work with too much passion from the outside.

Yet no music interprets itself, though in Brahms's Third Symphony, which came before the interval, the orchestra sometimes seemed willing that it should be allowed to do so.

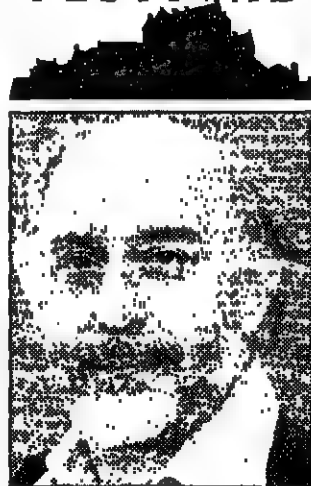
One thing to relish, however, was Hurst's pacing of the work, and especially the way in which he refused to allow the andante to dawdle.

With greater concentration, in a more intimate hall, and with fewer of those little slips of ensemble and intonation, Hurst might well have scored a revealing success here.

Stephen Pettitt

A poor year, but the festival rolls on

EDINBURGH
FESTIVAL



Dunlop: no winners

Great was the shaking of heads and loud were the murmurings of discontent when the international festival-goers got down to studying the programme for this year's Edinburgh Festival.

Was the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra the best they could muster? Was the Finnish National Opera really to be the highlight of it all, especially after last year's spectacular disaster? Was there to be no talk ever again of Domingo and Berganza and such great names as these? Where were the great programmes of the past, the ones that at a stroke introduced Janáček to the West?

"It's cold soup and it's been standing for a long time," commented one long-time festival watcher. "There really isn't anything terribly exciting," observed the *New York Times*, articulating a widespread view among leading foreign journals. Even festival director Frank Dunlop's keenly awaited second World Theatre Season, Papua New Guineans notwithstanding, lacks on paper at least, an out-and-out winner.

Reports of the festival's imminent demise, however, or even the mid-life crisis to which any 41-year-old might feel entitled, are exaggerated. The music programme this year is undeniably weak.

The fact that the same criticism was levelled at the drama programme for the last 20 years has not stopped it re-emerging triumphantly over the last two, Edinburgh is still by far the biggest arts event in the world, with ticket sales for the next three weeks running

into millions. People who never normally leave their TV sets will be going to two live performances a day.

Income from sponsorship has more than doubled since last year. Ever more eager youth and student performers will be descending on unsuspecting church halls. Not just to the so-called official festival, of course, but the Fringe, or indeed the jazz, the film, the television and this year's book festivals.

The various festivals (not excluding the military tattoo) recognize each other's contribution to the whole and the whole has become hugely popular. Recent successful innovations include the fireworks concert from the castle, the appearance of more and more official events in what used to be Fringe venues (and to a lesser extent the other way

round), and the huge growth of Fringe. Last one forgets, this has only happened within the last 10 years. The spectacle of performers (and audiences) spilling out on to the streets and courtyards, plus the creation of a genuinely festive mood in the city, is a recent and direct result of that growth.

Sheer size (I have not even mentioned the 50 or so exhibitions that will be showing) and a jolly festive atmosphere are not, of course, enough. Without major events of real quality and without imaginative programming planning the festival will soon start to unravel.

Even so, the festival's assets should not be undervalued. The prospect of a congenial atmosphere is sufficiently rare to several international performers, who are always being hustled from airport to airport, to make it a useful bargaining counter. Perhaps Mr Dunlop should spend what modest resources he has on fewer but bigger names and let the rest of the festivals take care of the quantity.

In the meantime, despite or maybe because of all its mutations, the festival remains remarkably close to the ideals of its post-war founders. Certainly the need for a big international celebration of the more positive achievements of humanity is undiminished. Whatever the shortcomings of any one year, there is no reason why Edinburgh, with careful husbandry, cannot continue to fulfil that need.

Robert Dawson
Scott

Telling the old, old story

Barrence
Whitfield & The
Savages
Dingwalls

While John Peel presided on the radio over the grand movements of Sixties psychedelia and to a lesser extent Seventies punk, his natural successor in the Eighties, Andy Kershaw, has come to be most closely associated with the roots revivalist cause. Barrence Whitfield is one of Kershaw's discoveries — and another firm indicator of the current wisdom that for rock, as in jazz, the path ahead

seems to be leading backwards. In four years spent slogging round the Boston bar circuit, with a shifting succession of "Savages" line-ups, Whitfield has perfected a show, which although it incorporated many original compositions, nevertheless manages not to acknowledge a single musical development since 1959.

The band's crisp, full-tilt attack was led by Bruce Katz's rapidly hammered piano chords and David Sholl's jitterbugging tenor saxophone

ROCK

seems to be leading backwards.

Much of Whitfield's delivery, as in "Stop Twisting My Arm", was in the yelling style of Little Richard. A cheerful looking man, he flung himself about with increasing vigour during "Frieda Frieda", an old Valiants' song which sounded like "Tutti Frutti" at 78 rpm, but energetic as it all was, there was a lack of contrast, and more importantly, a complete absence of ambition in the programme as a whole.

David Sinclair

REVIEW

In the blood

BOOKS IN BRIEF

Ladykillers: Crime Stories by Women (Everyman, £3.95)
Niccolo Rising, by Dorothy Dunnett (Penguin, £4.95)
The Imperial German Dinner Service, by David Hughes (Palladin, £2.95)

A seemingly trivial, yet deadly attention to detail peppers both the sweet and the salty brand of stories in *Ladykillers*. A dressmaker's pin points to pernicious truth in Agatha Christie's "Tape-Measure Murder", a shopping trolley containing bottles of gin and sherry provides lethal ammunition for the lonely, vindictive widow in Margaret Yorke's "The Mouse Will Play".

This collection is cleverly compiled, moving disconcertingly from the satisfyingly secure to the brutally dangerous. There are the delightful detective stories by Dorothy Sayers, Agatha Christie and Margery Allingham, in which the impetus of the story comes less from a brutal murder, than from intellectual satisfaction in the clue-sniffing ability of the sleuth.

Intertwined with these are the shocking and brilliantly unpleasant stories by Antonia Fraser, Caroline Blackwood and Elizabeth Jane Howard. In these tales, dreadful deeds often stem from inexplicable or petty motives, and psychological torture replaces clean-cut death.

● Violence, betrayal, resentment and revenge also race their wicked way through Dorothy Dunnett's glittering new saga *Niccolo Rising*. Set in Renaissance Europe against a backdrop of historical drama and international intrigue, populated by a cavalcade of real and imaginary characters,

it is a glorious cross between Sally Beauman's *Destiny* and (a continuation of) Froissart's chronicles.

The hero of the book is the charismatic Claes, alias Nicholas, alias Niccolo, who, starting life as a cheeky dyeshop apprentice, charms, connives, and seduces his way into the marriage bed of his mistress, the widowed Marian de Charety, and into the confidence of the rich and shameless (including the Medici). He triumphs, gaining hidden control of both friends and enemies. Persecution, rape, double dealing, passion and power combine to make this a riveting and extremely readable book.

● There are hints of a medieval quest in David Hughes' surprisingly moral, yet zany tale. *The Imperial German Dinner Service*. Roland Patcham, a bored out-of-work reporter, discovers the existence of a 1,000-piece Wedgwood dinner service. Created for the Kaiser in 1914, each piece of china is decorated with a picture of an English landmark. But the Wedgwood wonder is scattered throughout Europe. Patcham, in competition with his wife and her eminent lover, determines to track it down.

In his quest, he visits junk shops in Bourne-mouth, transvestite strip shows in Germany, and deserted huts in Iceland. He meets a cast of extraordinary characters, learns fascinating snippets of history, and discovers evidence of the cosy, rolling England he imagined existed as a child. But it is only later that he comes to realize his search has been about more than old crockery. An interesting tale, at times confusing, but light and wryly told.

Sabine Durrant

NEW PAPERBACKS

The Literary Editor's selection of interesting books published this week:

FICTION
Bedlam in the Bellwicks, by Desmond Walker (Alan Sutton, £3.95) Original paperback of sub-Tom-Swift farce about left-wing government's plans to make Channel Islands part of Hampshire, folked by grotesque and heroic islanders *Sare Mare*, by S. J. K. Walker (Penguin, £3.95) First publication of what reads like pretty autobiographical tale of Brahmin girl growing up in Indian village, getting a Western education, and escaping from her background of caste-war and superstition *The Death of Moine-Gamel*, by Simon Garel (Black Swan, £4.95) Funny, fecund, and fast Jewish political thriller *Transactions in a Foreign Currency*, by Deborah Eisenberg (Faber, £3.95) Short stories by younger Grace Paley

NON-FICTION
Angus McBean, by Adrian Woodhouse (Quartet, £12.50) Photographs by the irreverent and funny surrealist of stage and screen, making the stars look beautiful, with point in *Search of the Trojan War*, by Michael Wood (BBC, £3.95) Illustrated television series spin-off of plain man's Homer gallop around the scholarship and possible scenery *Waterhouse at Large*, by Keith Waterhouse (Grafton, £3.95) Selection of pieces over 25 years by one of our funniest, most versatile and most professional newspaper columnists

HAMISH HAMILTON
Paperbacks

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MALCOLM MUGGERIDGE

Ian Hunter

"...a book to please many kinds of people: those who need to be guided back to Muggeridge's main works... those who need a bit of spiritual guidance at a time when civilisation threatens to do a vanishing trick; and those who like a good story."

Sunday Times

WALTER SCOTT

His Life and Personality

Hesketh Pearson

"...one of Pearson's very best biographies... (Scott's) kindness and goodness shine from almost every page, and one is left with a glow of admiration for a truly remarkable man."

Daily Telegraph

I LEAP OVER THE WALL

Monica Baldwin

"A sympathetically written and extraordinarily interesting account of one of the strangest and most disturbing experiences a modern woman ever lived through."

Daily Mail

THE ITALIANS

Luigi Barzini

"An honest reviewer could dismiss this book in two words. 'Read it'."

Sunday Times

A LIFE OF SHAKESPEARE

Hesketh Pearson

"One expects much of a Hesketh Pearson biography... polish, epigrammatic wit, vivacious enthusiasm, heterodoxy (if not heresy), and above all a flesh and blood portrait. All are on display in *A Life of Shakespeare*."

Daily Telegraph

MY GRANDMOTHERS AND I

Diana Holman-Hunt

"A very nice book indeed, witty, spontaneous and original... evoking constant delight... Miss Holman-Hunt has an unusually brilliant ear for language."

Observer

THE GREAT HUNGER

Cecil Woodham-Smith

"A masterpiece of the historian's art... absorbing and valuable."

Observer

GLADYS

Duchess of Marlborough

"...a remarkable book, in which a huge cast of characters is handled with elegance and sympathy."

Daily Telegraph

From poet to person

PAPERBACKS

The Life of John Milton, by A. N. Wilson (Oxford, £4.95)

The tradition of cultural expansionism, Oxford University Press has launched its paperback Oxford Lives series with what seems like a haphazard choice of several acclaimed biographies. For once, however, a publisher's initiative inspired by little more than a desire to promote its imprint is actually welcome, since the books in question happen to be worth reading.

That a student of Milton will be drawn to Peter Fleming, Thomas Hardy or Strindberg simply because biographies of these writers are now available in OUP paperbacks is unlikely. But certainly A. N. Wilson's *Life of John Milton*, originally published by OUP in 1983, will continue to attract readers.

Perhaps because most of us encounter Milton (unlike Shakespeare or Goethe) in a stifling and sterile academic environment, this readable, opinionated, sympathetic biography is the intellectual palliative we need to gloss edges of a dreary A-level cliché. The Milton we remember is a poet almost despite his "greatness"; and the passages from *Paradise Lost* or the late sonnets that remain with us in later life shine uncertainly through thick clouds of schoolroom "ideas".

Christianity and Platonism, Cromwell and the Revolution, intellectual freedom and religious doctrine, all these disparate or interconnected threads entangle the essence of a natural genius, effectively obscuring "that one Talent which it is death to hide". For, underneath the agglomerated scholarly wisdom, Milton was, and remains in his best moments, a lyric poet, a truth Mr Wilson's excellent short biography helps to uncover.

To be sure, concerted obfuscation



of that truth was begun in Milton's own lifetime by his own pen. Already as a young man, feeling ill at ease in the Bursch world of 1620s Cambridge ("They made sport," he wrote of his fellow students at Christ's, "and I laughed."), he was drawn to the Mediterranean, to the lyrical sophistication of Dante and Petrarch, to Ariosto and Tasso.

He reached Florence as a man of 30 and remained for about a year.

Despite the congeniality of Italy's cultural climate, and the chilling prospect of a return to coarseness and obscurity, he came home to London on hearing of the approach of the Civil War. And so it happened that a born lyric poet became "by turns, an anti-episcopal pamphleteer, a short-lived enthusiast for Presbyterianism, a sympathizer with the Independents, a defender of regicide, the Latin Secretary to Cromwell and a Wanted

Man at the time of the Restoration", a public figure whose public utterances and private preoccupations have antagonized readers in centuries past.

Drawn into the whirlwind of political activism and religious debate in an England that thrived on schism, Milton begins to lose the Romantic appeal of Thomas Mann's bourgeois heroes and takes on the menacing aspects of a Lunacharsky, if not actually a Goebbels or a Zhdanov. His motivation, as Mr Wilson attempts to prove, is his passionate love of freedom, epitomized in the poet's meeting with the persecuted Galileo; but what politicized back, before or since, has written out of a love of tyranny?

By the end of his life, when political disillusionment and personal privations raised him "Above the smoke and stir of this dim spot/Which men call earth", Milton could at last be himself. It is as if his blindness, which had by 1652 become almost complete, finally enabled him to develop the gift during the remaining 20 odd years by separating him from the concerns in whose pursuit he had expended much of his life. According to prevalent Royalist opinion, the loss of sight was God's punishment; yet as an end to earthly myopia, it was God's blessing.

This glimpse of the poet's identity is impossible without Mr Wilson's inspired apology, and a poet without an identity is only a famous name. Give or take a handful of immortal lines, this is the abstract Milton we know, and Mr Wilson is to be commended for helping to deliver him from the obscurity of world fame for those amongst us with a genuine interest in English poetry.

Andrei Navrozov

The other books in the series are Peter Fleming, by Duff Hart-Davis, £5.95; Thomas Hardy, by Michael Millgate, £5.95; and Strindberg, by Michael Meyer, £5.95.

Not at all original

ROCK RECORDS

Original Soundtrack: The Living Daylights (Warner Bros 825 616-1)
Madonna & Various Artists: Who's That Girl (Sire 525 611-1)
Los Lobos & Various Artists: La Bamba (London LONLP 36)
The James Taylor Quartet: Mission Impossible (Re-Elect the President REAGAN 2)

Despite the many hit singles to have come from films in recent years, the quaintly-designated Original Motion Picture Soundtrack album has long been viewed with suspicion. Like many such items, the music from the latest James Bond picture, *The Living Daylights*, makes cynical use of a few mainstream rock songs to justify a raft of atmospheric padding. "If There Was a Man" by The Pretenders and A-Ha's hit recording of the title track, act as misleading window-dressing for John Barry's unimpeachable restatement of the blaring 25-year-old Bond theme, this time languishing under titles like "Ice Chase" and "Koskov Escapes".

Even when an artist of such towering popularity as Madonna contributes four new songs to the soundtrack of her own movie, the title track of which has already been No. 1, the results may be disappointing. Witness White's last *Girl*, in which the mercurial music of Miss Ciccone at its most formulaic is shored up by pedestrian contributions from Scritti Politti, Costi Mundi and others. All are knocked into a cocked hat by Club Nouveau's splendid funk workout, "Step By Step", an Eighties electro stab at the erstwhile Little Feet groove.

CLASSICAL RECORDS

Scutthorpe, Salinen, Glass, Nancarrow, Hendrick, Quartet, Kronos Quartet, Nonesuch 979 111-1 (black disc, also on cassette)
Stravinsky: Pulcinella suite, "Dumbarton Oaks" Concerto, Eight Instrumental Movements, Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, DG 419 628-2 (CD, also on black disc)

This is a fair sample of the Kronos style: an all-inclusive contemporary repertoire performed so smartly that even the weakest pieces sound punchy. Scutthorpe's Eighth

A-Ha: misleading window dressing

What a pleasure then to be able to recommend the superb soundtrack of *La Bamba*, the forthcoming film biography of Ritchie Valens, the Chicano star from Los Angeles who died at the age of 17, in the plane crash that also claimed the life of Buddy Holly.

Valens was a hero and role model to the Spanish-speaking members of Los Lobos, who have talked of feeling a "spiritual obligation" to make of this soundtrack. Their eight tracks, including Valens's other hits, "Donna" and "Come On, Let's Go" are lovingly and painstakingly recreated with a naturally-inspired zest, while the record's supporting cast includes Brian Setzer's amphetamine-fueled re-run of Eddie Cochran's "Summertime Blues" and Howard Hunsberry's inspired recreation of Jackie Wilson's "Lonely Teardrops".

The James Taylor Quartet tackle their favourite TV and film themes with wit and attention to detail. Mission Impossible incorporates such musical touchstones of Sixties junk culture as "Goldfinger" and "Bewitched" and resurrects the Hammond organ sound with eerie precision.

David Sinclair

Winning Whatever

JAZZ RECORDS

Denny Thompson Whatever (Harrilal HNBL 1326)

Denny Thompson's double bass is a familiar sound to fans of such Sixties folk-rockers as Pentangle, John Martyn, the Incredible String Band and Nick Drake; more recently he has ventured into the pop world to lead his talent in the likes of Kate Bush, David Sylvian and Ernie Cosselle. None of that has given him much of a presence in the jazz world, despite a stint in the Sixties with Tubby Hayes and a longer-term collaboration with John Stevens in recent years.

Whatever, Thompson's first album as a leader, should change improve his standing considerably. To his own playing, which typically combines the emotional generosity and melodic imagination of Charles Mingus with the steadiness and depth of Charlie Haden, Thompson adds two musicians who have also been unfairly overlooked: the guitarist Bernie Holland, once a member of George Fats' Blue Flames, and the saxophonist Tony Roberts, who briefly partnered Henry Lowther in an exciting quintet about 15 years ago.

If you can imagine a cross between the pastoral improvisations of the Jimmy Giuffrè Trio of the late Fifties (the group that played the immortal "Train and the River" in *Jazz on a Summer's Day*) and the sort of northern European chamber-jazz that Jan Carbarek records for ECM, then you have a fair idea of what Thompson, Holland and Roberts sound like. Familiar folk themes form the basis of several arrangements, and even the original material - all of it

collaboratively composed - has an ancient sound, rooted in Celtic, Moorish and other ethnic modes.

These musicians are virtuosos, and the balance between rusticity and sophistication is beautifully maintained. As did Giuffrè, Roberts exploits a multi-instrumental capability (he plays Northumbrian pipes, flute, clarinet and whistle, in addition to saxophones of various sizes) to provide textural variety, but the effect is never merely picturesque. Unlike New Age music, with which they might superficially be confused, these pieces go in for development as well as mood; and they always swing.

Thompson is marvellous throughout, nowhere more so than in his brooding solo on "The Mists of Arjan", played over a light Indian-style drone.

The work of Holland and Roberts will come as a revelation to those hearing them for the first time. The guitarist tops his imaginative ensemble playing with solos of such brilliance that - no exaggeration - you start thinking of Django Reinhardt. Roberts provides many exhilarating passages, notably with his tenor saxophone on the beautiful traditional cadences of "Lovely Joan" and with his flute on the lively "Yucateca", a sort of Peruvian-style minuet.

There has been no shortage of first-quality British jazz records this year, from Stan Tracey, Mike Westbrook, Loose Tubes, Itchy Fingers and others. If I had to recommend just one, though, I have a strong feeling that the modest, massaging, highly original and utterly charming *Whatever* would win the vote.

Richard Williams

Style over content

Quartet, for instance, rests content with two episodes of Balinese monkey dance interspersed with three of simple lament, but the performance is persuasively confident. So is that of Salinen's Fifth Quartet, which can seem only a loosely linked set of musings on a folk theme.

The American music on the B side is of itself more impressive. Glass's *Company*, written as incidental music for the Beckett play, is the best of his recent pieces I have heard. Nancarrow's Quartet (1942) is full of canons and rhythmic

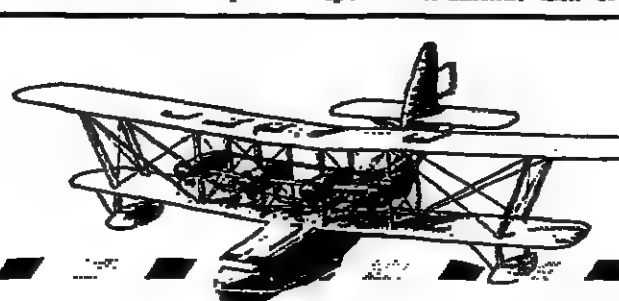
bendings that look forward to his piano studies, while suggesting that his fascination with mechanism had its origins in neoclassicism. The Kronos offers an arrangement of a Jimi Hendrix number, "Purple Haze", minimalist rock with maximal conviction.

The great success of the conductorless Orpheus Chamber Orchestra on record seems to have stimulated Polydor to dig out this Stravinsky programme from 1982, which is unfortunate. The recording is somewhat barbarous, with its spidery instruments, lack of

atmosphere, and immediate switch-offs at movement endings. Nor is the playing as secure as in more recent performances from this group: the violins lose tone at the top, and there is quite a deal of scrambling for position, especially in the *Pulcinella* suite.

This last fault must have a lot to do with performing Stravinsky's orchestral works without a conductor. The "Dumbarton Oaks" performance is distinguished by virtuosity, and also by sharp or surly elements looking forward to the Symphony in Three Movements. But this is a disappointing release.

Paul Griffiths



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THE TIMES ARTS DIARY

Down and out

Tenor José Carreras, 41, reportedly suffering from leukaemia in Barcelona's Provincial Clinic, has probably lost his chance of being Puccini's Rodolfo on screen. He is expected to leave hospital this week. However, he has already been replaced in the film of *La Bohème* being shot in Paris by Luca Canonici, who will play the love-struck student opposite Barbara Hendricks's Mimì. Filmgoers will hear Carreras because the soundtrack was recorded before his illness.

"There is an incredible investment involved - and film companies can't hang around waiting for someone to get well," said the singer's general manager, philosophically.

Carreras's illness has already meant the cancellation of the world premiere of *Christopher Columbus*, a new opera by Leonard Balada, but Covent Garden hopes he'll be well enough to sing Andrea Chénier in London in May.

Women's work

Many stage roles for women "of a certain age" are notoriously thin on the ground. So when the French actress Loretta Bellon turned playwright, she seized the chance of righting the balance. All three characters in *Thursday's Ladies*,



which opens at The Apollo, Shaftsbury Avenue, on September 9, are women, "old friends" who relive their pasts. They'll be played by *grandes dames* Dorothy Tutin, Eileen Atkins and Sian Phillips.

● *Glasnost grows apace*: while the *Kirov Opera* sings up a storm at the Royal Opera House and bright young bloods of the Bolshoi Ballet Academy cavort across the Coliseum stage, there comes news of more Soviet defectors. *Moscow Classical Ballet* will be touring Britain next year in a joint British-Soviet co-production of Swan Lake, presented by The Entertainment Corporation - which managed the other two tours. According to Peter Brightman of the Entertainment Corporation, this is the first time British music has ever gone into a Soviet production.

● *Keeping company*: It's not the first time that the Royal Insurance company has come to the aid of the Royal Shakespeare Company. The firm, which has just stumped up a three-year sponsorship of £1.1 million to help bail the RSC out of its £1 million-plus deficit, coughed up on the insurance claim when the original Stratford Theatre went up in smoke in 1926.

● The National Gallery is inviting heated debate in its current evening lectures. Dissenting views of Titello's "Allegory With Venus And Time" will come from the gallery's resident lecturer, Colla Wiggins, and curator Michael Hearn on Wednesday. And the audience is invited to participate.

Angela Wilkes

CONCISE CROSSWORD No 1330

Prizes of the New Collins Thesaurus will be given for the first two correct solutions opened on Thursday, August 13. Entries should be addressed to The Times Concise Crossword Competition, 1 Pennington Street, London, E1 9XN. The winners and solution will be announced on Saturday, August 15.

ACROSS												
1 Real (6)		2		3		4		5		6		7
8 Doctor (8)												
9 Decayed building (4)												
10 Camerons (8)												
11 C of E governing body (7,5)												
12 Thick soup (6)												
13 Oracles (6)												
14 Proms founder (3,5,4)												
15 Lord Chancellor's seat (8)												
16 Poultry cage (4)												
17 Stockings (6)												
18 Legal professional (6)												

SOLUTION TO No 1329
 ACROSS: 1 Anthem 4 Plaf 7 Rear 8 Dalmatic 9 Fitful
 11 Aunt 12 Stick-in-the-mud 15 Erude 16 Modicum 20 Llandaff
 21 Prop 22 Stilt 23 Rihel

SOLUTION TO No 1324 (LAST SATURDAY'S PRIZE CONCISE)
 ACROSS: 1 Fifi 4 Clammy 7 Just 8 Perfume 9 Feathering 15 Marina 16 Ender 17 G K Chesterton 23 Tintinus 24 Dock
 25 Hacia 26 Lollo

SOLUTION TO No 1324 (LAST SATURDAY'S PRIZE CONCISE)
 DOWN: 1 Fifi 2 Bishoric 3 Lapse 4 Corp 5 Along 6 Mocha
 10 Hinge 11 Never 12 Hydrofoil 13 Yarn 14 Smug 16 Knife
 18 Hance 20 Sit-in 21 Basil 22 Sap

The winners of prize concise No 1324 are: A Young, Sevenoaks Road, Orpington, Kent; and Mrs B M Pilkington, Boreley Cottage, Tillingham, Hereford.

Name _____
 Address _____

John Collins

THE WEEK AHEAD



DANCE

FLEET OF FOOT: Lynn Seymour returns to ballet as choreographer with *Wolf*, a creation for Ballet Rambert based on Mozart's life. The music is the piano concerto in C major, K467, and Andrew Logan is the designer. Opens Tuesday, with performances the rest of week. Other programmes include Alston's *Pucciniella* and *Strong Language* and works by Christopher Bruce, Michael Clark, Siobhan Davies and Mary Evelyn. The Big Top, Battersea Park. Advance booking at Royal Opera House (01-240 1066).



BOOKS

COMIC LICENCE: Russell Hoban, an illustrator of comics, has a world picture in which fantasy is indistinguishable from reality. In his latest, *The Medusa Frequency*, the narrator, who also happens to be an illustrator, has conversations on his word processor with the Kraken, Eurycle, Vermeer's portrait of the girl in the blue and yellow headscarf, and his girlfriend. Dream and memory, the mythical and the paranormal all invade everyday life. Jonathan Cape, £10.95, published August 13.



GALLERIES

NORTHERN LIGHTS: Sam Ainsley is a textile artist whose six banners depicting stylized warrior women are currently decorating the neo-classical portico of Scotland's premier modern art gallery. Ainsley is among 17 artists, including painter Steven Campbell, sculptor David Mach and photographer Calum Colvin, selected to illustrate an apparent renaissance in the Scottish visual arts. *The Vigorous Imagination* is at the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art, Edinburgh (031 556 8921). From tomorrow.



CONCERTS

HIGHLAND FLING: Mark Emmier conducts the orchestra of the Bolshoi Theatre, Moscow, in the opening concert of the Edinburgh Festival at the Usher Hall. Mussorgsky's stark *Songs and Dances of Death* are sung by Irina Arkipova, and this performance is framed by a suite from Rimsky-Korsakov's *The Legend of the Invisible City of Kitz* and Tchaikovsky's Symphony No 5. Emmier joined the Bolshoi in 1956. Usher Hall, Lothian Road, Edinburgh (031 228 1155, cc 031 225 5756).



FILMS

BLIND DATE: Kim Basinger, of 9½ Weeks fame, takes the title role in *Blind Date* (15), a rattling slapstick comedy from the prolific Blake Edwards. She plays Nadia, a distant relation on a blind date with Bruce Willis, a financial analyst in need of a date for a company function. After two sips of champagne she becomes wildly drunk and wrecks not only the restaurant but also her date's career. With John Larroquette as Basinger's psychotic, spurned boyfriend. Leicester Square Theatre (01-930 5252), from Friday.



THEATRE

DEBUTANTE: Ruth Madoc, popular television comedienne and character actress, makes her West End musical debut in *Bless The Bride*, which previews today and Monday and opens on Tuesday at Sadler's Wells. She plays an actress, mistress to the young Frenchman who carries off an English girl to France in the midst of the Franco-Prussian war. A mildly satirical view of Victorian family life and the English abroad. Sadler's Wells (01-278 8916). Previews today, Monday. Opens Tuesday. Until September 26.

EDINBURGH FESTIVAL

August 9-31. Festival Ticket Office, 21 Market Square (031 225 5756) for credit sales and reservations for all Festival shows.

THEATRE: *The History of a Horse*: Royal Theatre of Leningrad in the Chekhov dramatization of a Tolstoy story about a great horse. In Russian with simultaneous translation. King's Theatre, Sun, Mon, Aug 15. In repertory with *Uncle Vanya*.

Junio and the Peacock: Gate Theatre, Dublin, in Sean O'Casey's classic. Royal Lyceum, Opens Mon. Until Aug 15.

Uncle Vanya: Gorky Theatre of Leningrad in the Chekhov tragedy-comedy. Two performances, "in repertory" with *The History of a Horse*. King's Theatre, Wed and Thurs.

Mary Stuart: Frank Dunlop directs Friedrich Schiller's historical drama. In translation by Joseph Mellich, friend of Schiller. Edinburgh Festival/Scottish Theatre Company production. Assembly Hall, Opens Mon. Until Aug 29.

A Wholly Healthy Glasgow: Royal Exchange Theatre Company from Manchester in health club comedy. Church Hill Theatre, Opens Mon. Until Aug 22.

FILM FESTIVAL: The 41st season begins tonight with *Angel Heart*. Alan Parker's mystery thriller about a small-time detective. Other highlights of the first week: *Greenaway's The Belly of an Architect* (Wed), and recent Soviet films, including the compelling nuclear holocaust drama *Letters from a Dead Man* (Sun). Filmhouse, 88 Lothian Road, Edinburgh EH9 (031-226 2688).

DANCE: *Silence*: Russian folk dance company from Archangel take part in Edinburgh Festival. Playhouse, Edinburgh Festival Box Office, (031 225 5756), Sun to Tues.

GALLERIES: David Sella: First in-depth British showing for the young American figurative painter. The Fruitmarket Gallery, Edinburgh (031-225 2383). From today.

The Rigorous Imagination: Abstract painting by seven artists. Graeme Murray Gallery, Edinburgh (031-556 6020). From today.

Tobias To Tahrant: Decorative art, costumes, metalwork, and ceramics from the central Asian lands along the silk route. Royal Museum of Scotland, Edinburgh (031-225 7534). From Sunday.

OPERA: *The Magic Flute*: A return visit by the Folkopera of Stockholm. If last year's *Aida* was anything to go by, it should be quite an evening. Performances on Tues, Wed and Fri, and Sat, Aug 15 at 7.30pm and on Thurs at 4pm. Leith Theatre, Edinburgh (031-225 5756).

FRINGE: August 9-23. All bookings through Fringe Office, 170 High Street, Edinburgh EH1 1QS (031 226 5257/5259). Send 37p stamp to get Fringe Programme detailing shows of more than 450 companies.

ROCK: *The Frisco Brothers*: The duo combines a wry, modern lyrical commentary with the smoothest of Everly Brothers' harmonies. Nightly until 15 August. Studio Theatre, Gilded Balloon, Edinburgh (031 226 2151).

THEATRE LONDON

THE ART OF SUCCESS: Adrian Noble directs Nick Dear's comedy in a speculative piece about 18th-century artist William Hogarth. The Pit (01-638 8891). From Wed. In repertory.

FAMILY PLANNING: Parc and

Dare Theatre Company from Treorchy, Rhondda, makes its annual London visit with a comedy by "resident" playwright, Frank Vickery. Fortune (01-636 2238), Sun at 7.30pm.

THE GREAT WHITE HOPE: Nicholas Kent revives for the RSC his 1985 award-winning production of Howard Sackler's play about the first black heavyweight boxing champion of the world, Jack Johnson. Mermaid (01-236 5568). Previews Thurs, Fri, Aug 15, 17, 18. Opens Aug 19. In repertory.

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM: RSC Stratford production transfers, directed by Bill Alexander. Barbican (01-638 8891). Previews Thurs, Fri, Aug 15, 17. Opens Aug 18. In repertory.

MURDER IN THE CATHEDRAL: This Hawksmoor church provides a fine setting for the National Youth Theatre production, directed by Edward Wilson, of the T. S. Eliot drama. Music by Geoffrey Burgon. Christ Church, Spitalfields, London E1 (01-242 7040). Opens Thurs. Until Sept 4.

CONCERTS

WORDSWORTH/SHELLEY: Barry Wordsworth conducts the BBC Concert Orchestra in excerpts from Tchaikovsky's *Eugene Onegin*, the complete Romantic ballet. *Les Biches* and Rachmaninov's Piano Concerto No 2 with soloist Howard Shelley. Royal Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, London SW7 (01-589 8212, cc 01-589 9485). Today, 7.30pm.

ROZHDENSTVENSKY PHILHARMONIA: Schubert's *Rosamunde Overture*, Berlioz's *Symphonie fantastique* are heard from the Philharmonia Orchestra under Gennadi Rozhdenskiy. Rudolf Buchbinder solos in Beethoven's Piano Concerto No 3. Barbican Centre, Silk St, London EC2 (01-628 8795, cc 01-638 8891). Today, 7.45pm.

FIREWORK MUSIC: Simon Wright conducts the Philharmonia Brass Ensemble in Handel's *Music for the Royal Fireworks*, accompanied by fireworks. Barbican Centre, Lakeside Terrace, Today, 10.45pm.

ALL WAGNER: The English National Opera Chorus, Orchestra and soloists are conducted by Sir Reginald Goodall in Act III of *Parsifal*. Royal Albert Hall, Tomorrow, 7.30pm.

FANTASTIC BERLIOZ: The Oslo Philharmonic is conducted by Marcus Yansons in Berlioz's *Symphonie fantastique* and excerpts from Prokofiev's *Romeo and Juliet*. Albert Hall, Tues, 7.30pm.

RACHMANINOV'S BELLS: Cho-Liang Lin solos in Sibelius's Violin Concerto with the BBC SO. Mark Edes conducts *The Ritual Dances* from Tippett's *Midsummer Marriage*, the London Philharmonic Choir sing Rachmaninov's choral symphony *The Bells*. Albert Hall, Thurs, 7.30pm.

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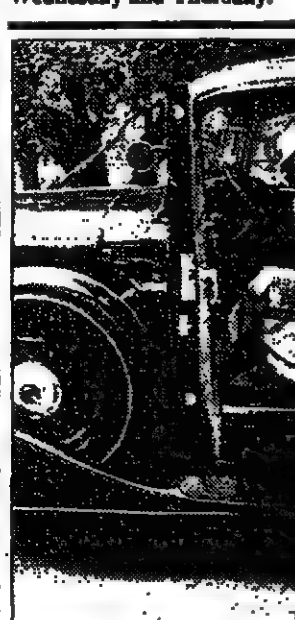
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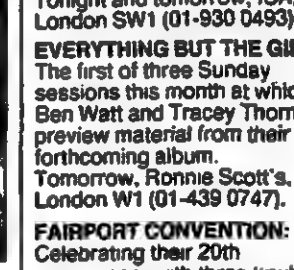
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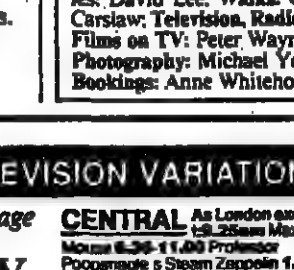
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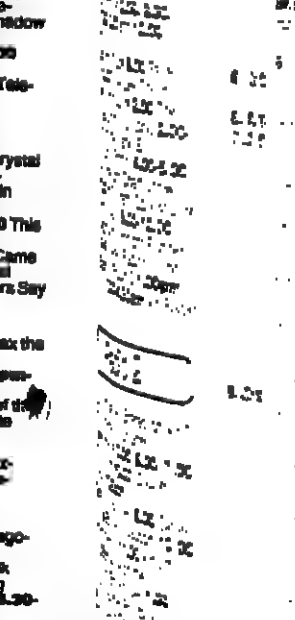
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REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS

Continued from facing page

B-Cal staff tell directors to co-operate with inquiry

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

Staff at British Caledonian have told the company's directors to press ahead with plans to merge with British Airways and to co-operate with the Monopolies and Mergers Commission in its formal investigation.

The joint shop stewards committee of the airline met yesterday in advance of today's full board meeting and gave its full backing to the planned take-over.

"We remain firmly behind the merger as the best option for the future security of British aviation, the general public and British Caledonian", it said in a letter to the board.

Such support from the staff is almost certain to persuade the directors to co-operate with the commission in the hope that the deal will be approved.

Sir Adam Thomson, chairman of B-Cal, had earlier said that he might be forced to pull out of the deal if it was referred to the commission because a long delay would affect the confidence of travel agents.

But B-Cal executives have produced a report showing that, provided the commission completes its work, as promised, by November 6, the airline will remain financially sound.

It shows that B-Cal already has 635,000 bookings, equivalent to 70 days of business and worth about £100 million. Long-haul bookings are up 32 per cent on the same date last year and the number of European passengers has also increased.

The figures will also bolster Sir Adam and others on the board who are in favour of pressing ahead with the merger.

But it is also clear that the deadline of three months in which the commission has to complete its task is only just short enough to prevent the airline from running into big problems.

The board is certain to want to keep open its options through talks aimed at linking

the airline with other carriers in both Europe and America.

The commission yesterday told B-Cal that it was free to go ahead with such talks. Three main contenders will be contacted and asked if they will be prepared to keep their plans open until the result of the investigation is known.

If the decision should go against a merger B-Cal will want to move quickly in linking up with another carrier so as to avert a loss of confidence.

The main contender is Northwest Airlines, the fourth biggest carrier in the United States. It already flies to Gatwick and Prestwick and its massive route network in the US would help to funnel traffic on to B-Cal's transatlantic services. Passengers from B-Cal's European and domestic routes would, in turn, be fed on to Northwest's trunk routes to cities not served by the British airline.

Another major contender is American Airlines, which is anxious to expand in Europe and which also has a huge network of flights within the US.

The main European contender is KLM, the Dutch national carrier, which has for some months been looking at ways of linking with a British carrier to provide a powerful European-based international airline with a network of feeder routes both within Britain and on the Continent.

Informal discussions with other independent European airlines such as UTA, the French carrier that has a large African route system, is also possible.

In each case, should it become necessary, the foreign airline would inject up to 25 per cent of capital into the new carrier and have a significant say in how its services were run and in the timings of its flights.

Mr Michael Bishop, chairman of British Midland, has also renewed his offer to link-up with B-Cal, but it seems that the deal with British Airways is still considered the best option.

Owen fights for title

Continued from page 1
continue the fight became graphically clear in Mrs Barnes's letter.

On letter paper headed "SDP" and "Campaign for Social Democracy" Mrs Barnes asked members to say whether they wanted to remain members of the SDP and to send donations to a "Support the SDP" fund.

She told them that Dr Owen would continue to lead the "Campaign for Social Democracy". He is to address a fringe meeting in that capacity at the SDP's Portsmouth

conference starting at the end of this month, she said.

In his interviews after the ballot Dr Owen made clear his determination to carry on as a social democrat. Although he predicted that the merger negotiations would succeed he nevertheless said that neither he nor the SDP should be written off, and talked about reaching an amicable settlement.

That was seen by mergerites as an obvious signal that he wants to take the title "SDP" with him, and Mrs Barnes's letter confirmed that view.

Waterspout takes a silent bow



The waterspout, estimated at up to 2,500 feet high, which one man described as "silent but powerful". It was photographed by teacher Mr David Porter

By Alan Hamilton

While for a large part of the so-called summer on mainland Britain it has been raining cats and dogs, in one small area off the Isle of Wight this week it briefly rained fish.

At least the weathermen say it probably did, although no-one actually caught any. But that is what waterspouts do: they rain fish, seaweed, driftwood, a great deal of water and, in extreme circumstances, bits of small boats. They are the marine equivalent of the twister, the tornado which frequently tears lumps out of the American Midwest.

British weather, based on long periods of grey tedium rather than nature's angrier moods, nevertheless has its moments. The waterspout which developed off Yarmouth, Isle of Wight, at lunchtime on Thursday, was a big meteorological event.

Mr David Porter, a local teacher, observed its brief life from the shore. "It began at about 1.10, and lasted for no more than four minutes. A grey funnel appeared from the base of thick, low cloud at the north end of Yarmouth pier. The funnel expanded at the base and the top into a solid grey rotating column.

"A cloud of spray 50 feet high and 30 feet broad developed around the base of the funnel. The base could not travel as fast as the rest, and a kink developed in the middle. Eventually the funnel was so thick that the mass of water within it could not be sustained: the funnel narrowed in the middle and collapsed with an obvious heavy mass of

water returning to the sea. The top of the funnel disappeared into the cloud."

Mr David McKillop, steward at the Royal Solent Yacht Club at Yarmouth, said: "It was quite black, and in a spiral shape. There was a lot of water turbulence at the bottom." A yachtsman who had been out at the time described it as "silent but powerful".

Another yachtsman was reported by coastguards to have had his vessel knocked down — pushed over but not quite capsized — but he made it back to Yarmouth and went on his way without leaving his name.

Eyewitnesses put the height of the spout at between 1,500 and 2,500 feet, in which case it will have broken no records.

The highest waterspout measured in Britain probably occurred off Ryde, Isle of Wight, in 1878, when an amateur scientist with a sextant measured its height at one mile. Waterspouts a mile high have also been recorded in Australia.

The Meteorological Office explained yesterday that waterspouts occur when cold air passes over warm sea, and there is little wind. They are by no means unknown in Britain, and the current spell of cold air covering much of the country has made conditions favourable.

There were at least two other freak weather reports at the same time. Observers at Orpington, Kent, spoke of a mini-tornado filling the air with straw, and the crew of a Dutch oil rig reported seeing four waterspouts.

Archaeopteryx debate

Flying fossil is foundering as feathers look like fakes

By Robin Young

Archaeopteryx may be coming home to roost. The most famous fossil in the world — half-bird, half-reptile and some 160 million years old — was yesterday again denounced as a good, old-fashioned forgery, crafted in the surgery of a Bavarian district medical officer and fossil collector, Dr Karl Haeberlein.

The scientific sceptics who are set upon plucking the chicken-sized creature of its (they maintain) fraudulently obtained plumage set out their case yesterday.

At the same time they accused the British Museum of unscholarly vandalism, of withholding evidence which could settle the authenticity of the fossil and of organizing a palaeontological cover-up in the text-books as the missing link in the evolution of birds from reptiles.

The case for the prosecution was set out by Dr Lee Spetner, an Israeli physicist now specializing in electronics. He was backed by Britain's best known astronomer, Professor Sir Fred Hoyle, and Professor Chandra Wickramasinghe, the head of the applied mathematics

and astronomy department at Cardiff University.

They are co-authors both of the novel theory that life reached earthed from outer space, and of a book which threw doubts on archaeopteryx's antecedents.

Archaeopteryx was discovered by Dr Haeberlein in 1861. After the publication of *The Origin of Species* he sold the fossil as part of his collection to the British Museum for £700.

Sixteen years later his son sold a second, better-preserved specimen to the Berlin Museum for £1,000.

Three other supposed specimen fossils of archaeopteryx have been identified, but none has traces of the creature's feathers preserved as they were in both the Haeberlein examples.

Dr Spetner says the feathers in the Haeberlein fossils were added to the genuine fossil by the application of a cement skin.

Dr Spetner obtained microscopic samples from the surface of the British Museum's fossil and detected completely different material from the rest of the Jurassic limestone fossil.

But, he claimed yesterday, the British Museum had refused any further samples or access to the fossil for non-invasive tests, and had managed to stop him publishing his doubts in any palaeontological journals.

"They have subjected this fossil to very rough treatment", Dr Spetner said yesterday. "They have chopped off and apparently destroyed about 100 grammes of it, including a whole section which held the braincase, and have apparently destroyed at least ten grammes of feathered material."

"Yet they will not even spare us a fraction of a microgramme for further tests."

The Natural History Museum is now proposing to stage an exhibition about the controversy, due to open on August 18.

Sir Fred said: "Like Pilt-down Man before it, archaeopteryx has become an embarrassment to the theory of evolution, a hindrance to understanding the development of flight, and an obstacle to those who try to explain how birds evolved."

Rees in demand for MI5 inquiry

By Philip Webster
Chief Political Correspondent

Mr Merlyn Rees, Home Secretary during the last Labour government, last night demanded an inquiry into the allegations in Peter Wright's *Spycatcher* book of an MI5 plot to destabilize the Harold Wilson administration in 1974-75.

Mr Rees, who has read the book, repeated the statements by himself and Mr James Callaghan, who was recently ennobled, that the 1977 inquiry set up by the Mr Callaghan did not cover the Wright allegations.

Mr Rees, speaking to his Morley and South Leeds constituency party, said that the time had come to bring the actions of the security services within the ambit of the law, and suggested that a properly constituted legal inquiry could begin discussion on the issue.

But he said that an inquiry was necessary in any case to avoid constant allegations which would do no good to the security services.

He said he expected the inquiry to include the "dirty tricks" carried out by some members of MI5, and possibly by some former members of MI6, together with the allegations made since 1977 of a dirty tricks campaign emanating from Northern Ireland which "included some politicians and an official then serving in the Foreign Office in London".

Mr Rees said he expected the inquiry not only to report on the allegations themselves but to come up with proposals leading to an oversight body to review annually the work of the security service, and a security service ombudsman to which staff who had fundamental complaints on security policy would have a duty to lodge their concerns.

Mr Rees was displaying his dissatisfaction with the statement by Mrs Margaret Thatcher to the Commons in May when she disclosed that an investigation by the director-general of MI5, carried out over the previous four months, had concluded that the plot allegations were false.

He said that he would seek a full debate on the allegations when the Commons resumes.

"Only an inquiry can lance the running sore of all the allegations and then ensure that illegal activities will not occur again."

Meanwhile, journalists at the *News on Sunday* stopped work for three hours yesterday over what they saw as an attempt to "gag" them.

The newspaper, which last week published extracts from *Spycatcher* was asked by its printers, West Ferry, for an assurance that no similar items would appear.

"The management have withdrawn their assurances to West Ferry and the printers have accepted that the *News on Sunday* is free to decide what it will publish", an NUJ spokesman said.

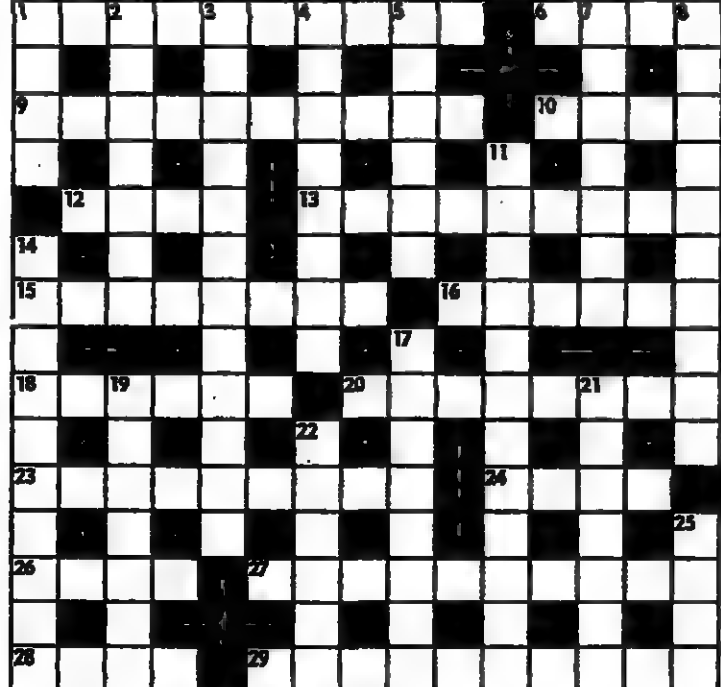
The Times Crossword Puzzle No 17,430

ACROSS

- Framework for serving soldiers (5-4).
- Mozart's catalogue has key placed out of order (5).
- Surpass in public work (7).
- Black magic following rain storm in Africa (7).
- How doctors describe bone injured in Barking? (5).
- Bank to stop advances (9).
- Medical bag (3).
- Account for filling up at station? (6-5).
- Author known for his work in the tropics (5,6).
- Nursery gardener not right in springtime (3).
- Exhausted swans putting tail first in open (9).
- Recipient of a booked passage (5).
- Overcome by darkness, having died in sleep (7).
- Cricketer set getting out without interruption (7).
- Puff oxygen for exhilaration (5).
- Wet sandal is unusual in the desert (9).

DOWN

- Old woman tickled to death? (5).
- Cab, mile off course, still (7).
- Headquarters in this office? (9).
- Tea (hemp) main source, oddly, of stimulant drug (11).
- Boy's range of knowledge (3).
- He appears in "Some Like It Hot" (5).
- Promote show with "Oklahoma" as centre-piece (7).
- Collection of showy pieces has intro introducing "Mull of Kintyre" (9).
- Conditions for translation of rousing tale (11).
- Comprehensive case? (6-3).
- Knight-bachelor, we hear, going round on a horse (9).
- Isle of Wight features almost pointless, paradoxically (7).
- River of wine (7).
- Mr Badger's home needs love following dust-up (3-2).
- Chilly? First signs of any laryngitis, get in doctor (5).
- Air moisture expected, they say (3).



Solution to Puzzle No 17,429

ACROSS
1. Scaffolding
2. Mozart
3. Surpass
4. Black magic
5. Fractured
6. Bank
7. Medical bag
8. Account
9. Author
10. Nursery
11. Exhausted
12. Recipient
13. Overcome
14. Cricketer
15. Puff
16. Wet sandal

DOWN
1. Old woman
2. Cab
3. Headquarters
4. Tea
5. Boy's range
6. He appears
7. Promote
8. Collection
9. Conditions
10. Comprehensive
11. Knight-bachelor
12. Isle of Wight
13. River of wine
14. Mr Badger
15. Chilly
16. Air moisture

A prize of The Times Concise Atlas of the World will be given for the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The winners and solution will be published next Saturday.

The winners of last Saturday's competition are: D. Aspinall, Slipmill Cottage, Slipmill Road, Hawkhurst, Cranbrook, Kent; R. B. Draper, Underhill, 3 Fair Close, Norton St Philip, Nr Bath, G. H. Ash, East Toller House, Nr Sheepwash, Devon; J. R. Rose, 36 Cranedown, Lewes; J. Paul, 21 Darling St, Enniskillen, co Fermanagh.

Name _____
Address _____

WEATHER

A rather cloudy start with showers continuing to affect northern and western districts particularly those exposed to the fresh, north-westerly winds and heavy showers affecting the far north. Sunny spells will develop and one or two sheltered spots will become warm. Outlook for tomorrow and Monday: remaining rather unsettled in the north and east with further showers likely; dry in the south and west with sunny spells and becoming a little warmer.

ABROAD

Midday	C	Cloud	D	Drizzle	F	Fog	Temp	Wind	Humidity
Algeria	30	91	Cloudy	26	70	Cloudy	6.5	15	59
Alexandria	31	84	Cloudy	28	84	Cloudy	10.4	18	61
Amman	31	76	Cloudy	27	80	Cloudy	7.3	19	60
Algiers	31	88	Cloudy	26	81	Cloudy	8.5	17	63
Amman	31	88	Cloudy	26	81	Cloudy	8.5	17	63
Amman	31	88	Cloudy	26	81	Cloudy	8.5	17	63
Amman	31	88	Cloudy	26	81	Cloudy	8.5	17	63
Amman	31	88	Cloudy	26	81	Cloudy	8.5	17	63
Amman	31	88	Cloudy	26	81	Cloudy	8.5	17	63
Amman	31	88	Cloudy	26	81	Cloudy	8.5	17	63

AROUND BRITAIN

Midday	C	Cloud	D	Drizzle	F	Fog	Temp	Wind	Humidity
London	11	55	Cloudy	10	50	Cloudy	11.9	19	66
Edinburgh	11	55	Cloudy	10	50	Cloudy	11.9	19	66
Edinburgh	11	55	Cloudy	10	50	Cloudy	11.9	19	66
Edinburgh	11	55	Cloudy	10	50	Cloudy	11.9	19	66
Edinburgh	11	55	Cloudy	10	50	Cloudy	11.9	19	66
Edinburgh	11	55	Cloudy	10	50	Cloudy	11.9	19	66
Edinburgh	11	55	Cloudy	10	50	Cloudy	11.9	19	66
Edinburgh	11	55	Cloudy	10	50	Cloudy	11.9	19	66
Edinburgh	11	55	Cloudy	10	50	Cloudy	11.9	19	66

AM



LIGHTING-UP TIME

TODAY
London 8.06 pm to 5.06 am
Edinburgh 9.17 pm to 5.15 am
Edinburgh 9.37 pm to 5.01 am
Manchester 8.26 pm to 5.07 am
Penzance 9.25 pm to 5.32 am

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Thermals: Highest day temp: London, 21C (70F); lowest day max: Lowest, 14C (57F); Cape Wrath, all regions, 11C (52F).

TODAY

Sun rises 5.34 am
Moon sets 3.22 am

TOMORROW

Sun rises 6.36 am
Moon sets 5.00 am

NOON TODAY

Thermals: Highest day temp: London, 21C (70F); lowest day max: Lowest, 14C (57F); Cape Wrath, all regions, 11C (52F).

Information supplied by London Weather Centre

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land
M
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Executive Editor
Kenneth Fleet

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share

1726.9 (-27.2)

FT-SE 100

2226.2 (-35.2)

Bargains

57422 (48611)

USM (Datastream)

203.82 (-5.47)

THE POUND

US dollar

1.5655 (-0.0100)

W German mark

2.9560 (-0.0073)

Trade-weighted

72.0 (-0.1)

Backings

for pasta

peace

The governments of the 12

European Economic

Community member states

ratified yesterday the

past settlement

between the EEC and the US.

The settlement, which

includes a reduction of EEC

subsidies on pasta exports to

the US by 27.5 per cent, was

reached on Wednesday but

needed to be ratified by the

governments before it takes

effect on October 1.

It settles a seven-month

dispute on EEC subsidies for

pasta exports to the US and

halts the two from the brink

of a trade war.

Murdoch sells

first paper

Mr Rupert Murdoch has

relinquished all ties with the

first newspaper he owned, *The*

Adelaide News, which has

been sold to a group of City

businessmen.

Mr Roger Holden, the

paper's managing editor,

joined Mr Reg Cordine, the

general manager, in heading a

consortium that took control

of the paper from Northern

Star Holdings, in which Mr

Murdoch has a 15 per cent

stake.

Williams buy

Rez Williams, Leisure, the

snooker table business where

Mr Frank Warren, the boxing

promoter, is taking a large

stake, is buying *Stumpord* Disc

Amusements, which makes

amusement machines, video

games, and pool tables, for

\$420,000.

SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS

New York

Dow Jones 2983.91 (-0.32)

Nikkei Dow 24800.66 (+142.72)

Hong Kong

Hang Seng 3888.19 (+38.24)

Sydney AO 327.5 (-0.3)

Frankfurt

DAX 2098.8 (+4.1)

Colombo

CSE 2035.9 (+20.7)

Perth CAC 410.4 (-0.1)

Jurassic S&A 592.60 (+1.80)

London FT 1726.9 (-27.2)

FT 100 2226.2 (-35.2)

FT 30 1726.9 (-27.2)

FT 100 2226.2 (-35.2)

FT 30 1726.9 (-27.2)

FT 100 2226.2 (-35.2)

FT 30 1726.9 (-27.2)

FT 100 2226.2 (-35.2)

FT 30 1726.9 (-27.2)

Pay warning for Britain

OECD predicts sharp slowdown in growth

By Rodney Lord, Economics Editor

High pay settlements remain a big problem for the British economy, says the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development in its annual review of Britain. Settlements in the private sector may now have fallen as far as they are going to, and a renewed rise would undermine British industry's competitiveness.

In a sober assessment of the economy's recent performance, the OECD says it has developed favourably compared both with performance here in the past and with other countries. But there is no reason for complacency as this follows a long period of relative decline, and has taken place against the background of an unsatisfactory performance by other leading economies.

The OECD is a little more

optimistic about the balance of payments outlook than in its forecast in June. It now expects a current account deficit of £1 billion in the second half of this year and £2.5 billion in 1988.

But a deteriorating performance in export markets as competitiveness declines, coupled with a strong rise in

economic climate in the short term is expected to be one of continuing strong consumer demand this year, falling next year as higher inflation slows the rise in real incomes.

Investment will rise in the second half of this year but is likely to slow down towards the end of next year as industrial competitiveness declines. Stockbuilding will accelerate temporarily to catch up with higher output, but public spending will remain restrained.

The OECD admits to being uncertain whether recent productivity gains are cyclical or more permanent. If, however, they are largely the result of the present rapid growth in output, as the OECD assumes, then the level of wage increases threatens a renewed rise in unit costs which will put pressure on inflation and limit future falls in unemployment.

Unemployment is expected to continue falling slightly next year, and inflation is forecast to rise only slightly. But the still high rate of unemployment and persistently higher inflation rates than those of trading partners are the two main problems of economic policy.

The Government should give a lead in the battle to keep pay settlements under control by using its role as public sector employer, says the OECD.

The general pattern of the

OECD Forecasts for UK

	1987	1988	1987	1988
Private consumption	3%	3%	3%	3%
Government consumption	1%	1%	1%	1%
Gross fixed investment	2%	3%	3%	3%
Stockbuilding	0%	0%	0%	0%
Exports	4%	1%	2%	1%
Imports	4%	4%	2%	4%
GDP	3%	2%	3%	2%
Consumer prices (% p.a.)	4%	4%	4%	4%
Unemployment rate (%)	11%	11%	11%	10%
Current a/c (£bn)	-1%	-2%	0%	-1%
Volume (1980 prices)				
Percentage change from previous period, seasonally adjusted annual rates				

US jobless total falls to lowest level in 10 years

From Bailey Morris, Washington

The US unemployment rate dropped to its lowest level in a decade last month, falling to 6 per cent despite the loss of 40,000 jobs in the motor industry. At the end of the month, a record 112.7 million Americans were employed.

US officials, citing a surprisingly strong gain of 900,000 jobs since last April, said the

new figures provided further evidence that the economy would avoid falling into recession this year.

President Reagan, describing the July data as remarkable news, said the continued growth of jobs represented a "breakthrough which does not occur in a hyper-inflated economy."

Service sector industries continued to provide a large percentage of new jobs with big gains last month in retail trade employment, up by 60,000 places, and business and medical services jobs up by 80,000. The sluggish manufacturing sector, which has lost only half the jobs lost

since the 1981-82 recession, also showed surprising growth last month of 70,000 positions.

The only dark spot in the 0.1 percentage point drop in the jobless rate last month was the increase in the number of people forced to accept part-time jobs in lieu of full-time positions.

A breakdown of the latest figures revealed that employment rose by 470,000 jobs last month and by 2.8 million over the past year, setting a record. The Administration has released a new mid-year forecast of economic growth that was unchanged from the earlier projection of 3.2 per cent.

Standard Chartered sells SA bank stake

JOHANNESBURG (Reuters) — Standard Chartered is to sell its 29 per cent stake in South Africa's Standard Bank Investment Corporation, the South African bank said yesterday.

Standard Bank is the last foreign-controlled bank left in South Africa after a wave of disinvestment. It said the shareholding would be sold to several local companies, the general public and bank executives.

Bank officials estimated the sale at about 500 million rand (£94.87 million at the financial rand exchange rate), making it one of the biggest disinvestment moves.

The bank said in a statement that after the trans-

action, Liberty Holdings insurance group would own 30 per cent of the bank's shares. Old Mutual 20 per cent, Gold Fields of South Africa 10 per cent, Rembrandt Group 10 per cent, Standard Bank pension fund 5 per cent and the general public and executives 25 per cent.

The acquisition will be made at an effective price of 18.75 rand per share.

Nine months ago Barclays Bank sold its 40 per cent stake in South Africa's largest bank for 527 million rand.

Standard Bank Investment Corp's shares, suspended on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange from July 29, will be reinstated from the opening of business on Monday.

Snags hit meat group

Borthwicks, the international meat trading group, with a chequered trading history, has run into fresh problems, and may not make a profit in the current year to September 30.

Late deliveries of lamb from New Zealand, and fierce competition, have sent the results of the group's British meat division into a "steepening downward trend".

At the same time the shortage of livestock which affected the group's half-year trading results has been "unexpectedly prolonged", and exacerbated by an intensification of the testing procedures for imported meat by the US.

As a result the pretax result for the full year "must be considerably affected, possibly to show little or no profit."



John Barkshire: new terms substantially more attractive

B&C's Mercantile offer up to £542m

By Lawrence Lever

British & Commonwealth Holdings yesterday announced an increased £542 million offer for Mercantile House, forcing Quadrex Holdings to withdraw its £530 million conditional cash offer for the financial services group.

The new offer has the backing of the Mercantile board, led by Mr John Barkshire, the chairman. The board said the offer was "substantially more attractive in all respects to shareholders and employees" than the Quadrex proposals.

B&C will still sell Alexander Leung & Cruickshank to Credit Lyonnais but will be negotiating a higher price than the £75 million originally agreed.

The B&C offer is, like the first, largely in paper with only a partial cash alternative. This prompted Mr Gary Klesch, the head of Quadrex, to claim that Mercantile shareholders would "prefer cash".

Mercantile's shares leapt 26p to 585p on the announcement of B&C's offer and then gave up all the gain as B&C

shares fell back 20p reducing the value of its offer from 600p-a-share to about 572p.

The position of Quadrex was considerably weakened by a statement from the independent directors of funds managed by Mercantile's valuable Oppenheimer subsidiary.

They said that if Mercantile changed hands it could not be assumed that the £6.5 billion

funds would remain under Oppenheimer's management.

However, they added that in B&C's case they had already approved the transfer of the management contracts.

Mr Derek Higgs of SG Warburg, advisers to Mercantile, said yesterday that Mercantile would not accept any alternative offer which was conditional upon the Oppenheimer funds approving it.

The B&C offer is backed by both the Globe and Electra Investment Trusts who, together with the B&C camp, hold almost 28 per cent of Mercantile's shares.

Shortages 'hit firms'

Shortage of skilled workers is hindering the growth of small firms, according to a new survey from the Confederation of British Industry.

Mrs Jean Parker, chairman of the CBI's Smaller Firms Council, said yesterday: "The latest quarterly trends survey shows that small firms are enjoying a fast rate of growth

of orders and output, investment intentions are up, costs and prices are rising less rapidly and employment is accelerating.

But the skills shortages continue to be a problem, with machinists, welders, printers and design and electronics engineers in most demand.

Sumrie plans cash call

By Michael Tate

One of the first tasks facing Mr David Sinclair, the chartered accountant who takes over as chairman of Sumrie Clothes, the Leeds textile company, later this month, will be to raise new cash — probably involving a rights issue.

"We have a very comfortable relationship with our bankers," he said, "and our acquisition programme will largely be financed by shares, but we will need to strengthen the balance sheet."

Sumrie, which yesterday announced a loss of £130,000 for the year ended last March, compared with a £212,000 profit in the previous year, expects to make its first acquisition within four weeks.

It also expects shortly to announce its new managing director.

Mercury wins agreement for Italy service

By Colin Narbrough

Mercury, the telecommunications company, yesterday announced a breakthrough in its campaign for access to the lucrative market in telephone traffic with Europe, and a chance to compete squarely in the region with British Telecom.

Mr Gordon Owen, managing director, said Mercury had reached a "historic" agreement with the Italian posts and telecommunications authorities to operate switched telephone and telex services between Italy and Britain.

It was hoped that the service, which will allow Mercury to offer business and residential calls between 12 to 17 per cent cheaper than BT, would start in October or November. The company was confident of clinching similar deals with four more EEC countries in the near future, said Mr Owen.

He made clear that France and West Germany, the biggest European markets, were not among the four, but said he hoped Italy's recognition of Mercury as a "genuine carrier" would encourage the other Europeans.

The Government's intervention on Mercury's behalf was underlined. Mr John Butcher, junior Trade and

Industry Minister, had personally taken up the matter in Rome, and decisively influenced the Italian authorities.

The minister had also written to all EEC telecommunications ministers at the end of June, urging a positive response to Mercury's approaches in the name of competition.

The Italian deal is the first switched service agreement Mercury has concluded with a European country, and breaks the effective cartel that has operated between BT and the mainly state-owned Continental operators.

Mercury generates more than 1.5 per cent of telephone traffic between Britain and Italy, but has to date been obliged to hand it over to BT, gaining nothing from the business.

Mr Owen noted that Europe accounted for some 40 per cent of telecommunications traffic to and from Britain.

Set up as a rival to the privatized BT, Mercury, a wholly owned subsidiary of Cable and Wireless, has previously concluded public switching agreements with the United States, Canada, Australia, Hong Kong, Bahrain, Bermuda and Belize.

Talks on Harvard future break down

By Cliff Feltham

Talks have broken down between Harvard Securities, the controversial share dealing firm, and a consortium headed by Mr David Wickins, the former boss of British Car Auction Group earlier this year.

Mr Wilmot said he was "confident that if current negotiations are successfully concluded, shareholders and staff will be well rewarded for their patience."

Earlier this week, Mr Wickins had been enthusiastically sketching out his own plans for Harvard, saying it would end its sometimes controversial practice of cold-calling customers to sell shares, and become a mini-merchant bank developing young companies.

However, its future now looks cloudy. Harvard, which has never been favoured by the authorities, recently had its long-standing application for Stock Exchange membership turned down.

Membership is vital as Harvard must, under the Financial Services Act, gain authorization from a self-regulating organization to continue trading.

Mr Tom Wilmot, the chairman and one of the founders of Harvard, had been expected to resign this week and sell his 37 per cent share stake to make way for Mr Wickins.

But in a surprise announcement last night, Harvard said those discussions had been discontinued. "However, further talks continue, but due to the nature of the discussions it has been decided to ask for the shares to be suspended for a further two weeks. The directors wish to reassure shareholders that this action is in their best interests."

Mr Wilmot, who was in New York, was said to be excited by the new develop-

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STOCK MARKET

Big casualties as slide continues

By Our City Staff

Stock markets had another traumatic trading session yesterday as share prices succumbed to heavy selling pressure in the wake of Thursday's surprise rise in bank base rates.

Fears of further increases in the cost of borrowing for forthcoming trade returns and banking figures make a grim showing but market-makers cutting prices sharply in attempts to stem a flood of selling orders.

Inevitably, rumours of dealers and firms in financial difficulty went the rounds due to the sudden change in sentiment, but the Stock Exchange was quick to refute the stories later in the day.

Although a half-hearted rally after-hours helped to trim some of the heavier losses as some brave souls moved in for the new account, there were still some big casualties to be found in most sectors.

Consumer-led issues such as stores, food, buildings, breweries and properties were particularly vulnerable.

Shares began tumbling from the opening, completely ignoring a 27-point overnight jump on Wall Street. By 11am the FT-SE 100 share index was showing a further 65-point drop from its overnight levels.

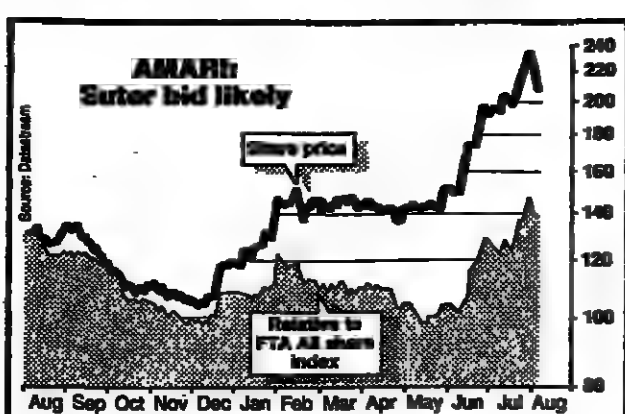
The increase in orders was putting a severe strain on the new Seq computer system which has not really been tested on the downside since last October's Big Bang. The FT-SE 100 share index later cut its fall to 35.2 when it closed at 2,226.2, mainly due to technical factors. The FT 30 share index finished the day at 1,726.9, down 27.2.

Government stocks kept comparatively calm after Thursday's three-point losses, but further falls of half a point were attributed to the conventional stocks while index-linked issues retreated more than £1 on inflationary worries.

One or two of the international leaders such as Glaxo, up 7p to 1,717p, were supported by Wall Street's influence, but others such as Thera EMI dropped 37p to 646p and Laces 20p to 695p.

Storehouse remained one of the day's most active counters trading 17 million shares, but takeover speculation failed to stem profit-taking and the shares closed at 358p, down 15p, having touched 343p in early trading.

Among builders and engineering groups, Williams Holdings dipped 31p to 844p and Wolsley 22p to 644p.



Recent high-flier Oakwood retreated 58p more to 760p.

There was some heart-searching among underwriters for the huge Blue Arrow rights issue announced earlier this week. Thursday's flop by WPP Group increased the nervousness. WPP lost an

estimated 40p to 780p while Blue Arrow plunged below 800p at one stage before recovering to 810p, down 30p, still well below the 830p rights issue price.

British Aerospace fell 12p to 490p disappointed with the

market's reaction to the takeover of the firm's aircraft division. The shares have since recovered to 500p, but are still well below the 520p rights issue price.

in recognition of the profits recovery.

The recent cautious circular from Phillips and Drew continued to weigh heavily on Amstar, 8p lower at 147p. STC lost 12p more to 264p as dealers continued to worry about a possible ITT sale.

Saville Gordon gave up 10p to 123p ahead of next Wednesday's results and BBA Group, reporting interim figures on Monday, declined 11p to 203p. BZW, the broker, is looking for £19 million for the first half against £12.4 million last time.

Fading hopes of a takeover left Applimare 33p lower at 415p. Recent bumper profits and a takeover proposal failed to stem further profit-taking in T Cowie, 95p down at 785p.

Weak breweries had less than 28p to 885p while among leisure shares Ladbrokes eased 14p to 420p ahead of figures later this month.

Dull foods featured Brake Bros at 203p, down 45p, after recent speculative strength.

The prospect of a Dutch merger did little for Mr Robert Maxwell's BPCC, down 15p to 320p.

Reports that Standard Chartered Bank had sold its stake in Stanbic of South Africa came too late to affect

the share price, down 13p to 770p. Other banks were similarly easier, but insurers rallied well from initial uncertainty ahead of next week's statements from Commercial Union and General Accident.

In properties British Land jumped 18p to 321p on revived hopes of a Far Eastern bid.

Mercantile House shares were little changed at 562p following the increased and agreed terms worth 600p from British & Commercial Union.

RTZ remained on offer at 145p, down 65p, still smarting from a recent cautious circular.

Newcomer J Gardner chose the wrong day to come to market recording a 3p discount to the 60p placing price.

FRANKFURT: The rally in West German shares extended through its fourth straight session as share prices rose across a broad front on the Frankfurt stock exchange yesterday, brokers said.

The Commerzbank index closed up 6.1 to 2,039.3.

The dollar's continued strength despite days of intervention by central banks aimed at reversing the US unit's rise as well as renewed international interest in the West German market were backing up equities, brokers said.

WALL STREET

Dow edges higher as blue chips recover

New York (Reuters) — Wall Street share prices remained mixed in early trading yesterday after a higher opening.

Blue chip issues recovered most of their earlier losses, however, after bumping into profit-taking.

The Dow Jones industrial average edged up 3.03 to 2,597.26 at one stage when the transport indicator rose 6.45 to 1,080.48 and the utilities average was up 0.11 to 204.24.

Advancing issues continued to lead declining shares.

Economists said higher-than-expected gains in employment could raise concern at the Federal Reserve about an overly strong economy.

Technology issues were higher with Cray up 1% at 111%.

Vortec Corporation said in Cincinnati, Ohio, it had decided to sell or otherwise dispose of its durable medical equipment business, leaving only its original industrial business.

Aug 06 Aug 05 Aug 04 Aug 03 Aug 02 Aug 01

ASA	59%	59%	59%	59%	59%
Delta	59%	59%	59%	59%	59%
United	59%	59%	59%	59%	59%
Southwest	59%	59%	59%	59%	59%
Allegiant	59%	59%	59%	59%	59%
JetBlue	59%	59%	59%	59%	59%
Frontier	59%	59%	59%	59%	59%
Allegiant	59%	59%	59%	59%	59%
JetBlue	59%	59%	59%	59%	59%
Frontier	59%	59%	59%	59%	59%
Allegiant	59%	59%	59%	59%	59%
JetBlue	59%	59%	59%	59%	59%
Frontier	59%	59%	59%	59%	59%
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Japanese 'suspected by US of breaking Cocom rules'

From Darryl Gibson
Tokyo

Several Japanese high-technology companies, including Konishiroku Photo Industry and affiliates of Fujitsu and Matsushita Electrical Industrial, the electronic groups, are suspected by the United States of breaking export rules of the Parisian Co-ordinating Committee which sets guidelines for Western exports to Soviet bloc countries, the Japanese Press reported yesterday.

The articles, quoting sources within the Japanese parliament, said Konishiroku, maker of Konica photographic goods and business machines; Olympus Optical; Advantest Corp, an affiliate of Fujitsu; Ulvac Corp, an affiliate of Matsushita; and Anelva Corp, an offshoot of NEC Corp, are among the companies suspected of making possibly improper exports to Warsaw Pact and other Communist countries.

Mr Noboru Hatakeyama, head of a special inquiry team set up by Mr Hajime Tanuma, the Minister of International Trade and Industry, refused to confirm that the companies named by the Diet sources were being investigated by the MITI.



Hajime Tanuma: inquiry into possible exports to Soviet bloc

But he did concede that the MITI would be making disclosures about its investigation of Toshiba Machine Co, which shipped milling machines to the Soviet Union against Cocom guidelines, and other companies which have been doing business with the Communist bloc.

A spokesman for Konishiroku said it was carrying out an "action plan" to ensure

there were no Cocom violations when exports to the Soviet sphere are made, but he refused to say whether the MITI had questioned company officials.

Ulvac and Olympus spokesmen have denied allegations of breaking Cocom guidelines.

At Anelva Corp, a wholly-owned subsidiary of NEC, a spokesman, Mr Muneshita Fukuda, said the company had shipped some etching machines to China, which required Cocom approval in 1985, but had not exported products to the Soviet Union. The company was not being investigated by the MITI, he added.

Advantest Corp said its shipments were limited to Western Europe and that its products were not sold to Soviet or Communist bloc countries.

But it remains to be seen what results the investigations will bring. The MITI has no authority to conduct on-site investigations of firms suspected of Cocom rule infringements and there is a "considerable gap," according to sources, between the US and Japanese view of what constitutes a Cocom violation.

Senior in purchase for £7m

By Michael Tate

Senior Engineering Group is beefing up its mining equipment operations with the £7 million acquisition of Davis Derby from the Fairley group.

Davis makes electrical signalling, control, communications and monitoring equipment for use in hazardous atmospheres.

It will fit snugly with Senior's pipes and fittings, conveyor belts and fire-fighting operations.

In 1986 Davis made profits of £1.1 million, before management and interest charges, on sales of £13.7 million. Assets are about £4 million.

The purchase price will be settled by the issue of 10.7 million new shares, which Fairley is placing at 65p each.

As a result of the deal, Davis products will be marketed through Senior's distribution networks in the US and Australia, while Senior will use Davis's South African subsidiary.

Mr Don McFarlane, Senior's chief executive, described the move as "a further important step in Senior's acquisition strategy of broadening its base in each of the industries it serves".

Comet sold to Yellow Advertiser

By Cliff Feltham

Yellow Advertiser Newspaper Group, the largest independent publisher of free newspapers in the country, is paying £2 million to buy the outstanding 75 per cent of Comet Newspapers.

Comet publications have a total weekly distribution of 600,000 copies in south London and surrounding areas, including Croydon, Sutton, Epsom, Bromley, Bexley, Lewisham, Southwark and Lambeth.

Mr Ian Fletcher, the chairman of Yellow Advertiser, said: "Comet is a valuable acquisition and we are delighted to be able to play a bigger part in its growth."

"The Comet titles complement our own in a geographical sense."

The latest acquisition means Yellow Advertiser will now publish more than 2 million newspapers every week.

Fourteen of its titles are under the Yellow Advertiser flag and circulate in Essex and east London and 10 Informer titles are distributed in north and west London.

Yellow Advertiser has owned a 25 per cent stake in Comet since 1985.

Directors at Ealing to keep stakes

By Ray Heath

Directors of Ealing Electro-Optics, which designs and manufactures high-precision optical equipment, told shareholders yesterday that they would be retaining their shares in the company, which is facing a 154p offer from Sagemill.

An exception is Mr Mervyn Williams, the chairman, who will be disposing of half his shares, either to Sagemill or in the stock market.

Most existing shareholders have undertaken not to accept the bid, made for technical reasons. The remainder, with 19 per cent, are advised to accept the bid only if they have doubts about the involvement of Sagemill, which has undertaken to maintain a 29.9 per cent stake in EE-O.

Belhaven in buoyant mood

Mr Raymond Miquel, chairman of Belhaven, the brewery group, told shareholders at yesterday's annual meeting he was confident of expansion.

He said the £2.4 million programme to triple output at the Dunbar brewery in Lothian to 100,000 barrels a year was due to be finished in October. The recent launch of new products, including a lager, had resulted in "satisfactory sales to date".

Small shareholders should be prudent and not panic. Remember that in the past private investors have usually made the mistake of being the last to sell.

The referee will be wholly independent of Imro although the costs of the system will be paid by Imro, not the investor. The referee will deal with

Imro plans referee for investors' complaints

By Lawrence Lever

The Investment Management Regulatory Organization (Imro) — the body which will police the large fund management institutions when the Financial Services Act comes into force — is to set up a referee system to handle complaints from investors.

He will in the first place attempt to resolve any dispute by conciliation and if that fails will, with the consent of the parties involved, act as an adjudicator whose decision will be finally binding on both sides.

● KALAMAZOO: The company has sold its subsidiary, Kalamazoo Hospitality Systems, to Computerized Lodging Systems of California.

'Dynamic' financial sector may raise interest rates

By Graham Searjeant, Financial Editor

The financial sector contributes a higher proportion of national output in Britain than in any other industrial country within the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, according to the latest OECD report on the British economy.

It is among the most dynamic sectors of the economy and has maintained an importance in world financial markets far exceeding that of Britain's economic base, a special study concludes. But the success of the financial sector could deter investment in industry by requiring higher interest rates.

Financial institutions and insurance companies alone accounted for 7.5 per cent of gross domestic product in 1985, compared with 5.9 per

cent 10 years previously. The proportion is thought to have increased further since then.

The same sectors accounted for 4.7 per cent in the United States, 5.7 per cent in West Germany and 6.9 per cent in Switzerland in 1985.

A broader definition of the financial sector, taking in business and property services, shows its output has grown by 60 per cent over the decade compared with about 20 per cent for the economy as a whole.

While financial institutions account for only 3.5 per cent of employment, this share is among the highest and fastest rising of all OECD member countries.

But the report gives a warning that problems remain

and that liberalization has made monetary control harder.

The report also gives a warning that liberalization and the relative size of the financial sector may have increased interest rates relative to other countries. It says this may have prejudiced real investment and growth.

The cost of capital appears to have continued to exceed the average rate of return on companies' fixed assets, the OECD says. This may explain why — unusually in the OECD — the corporate sector has been a net lender, investing to a considerable extent in financial assets rather than in physical capital. The high level of spending on takeover bids could also have "worrying" effects on real investment.

marked proliferation of professional specialists operating within senior management in industry and commerce. They included economists, statisticians, tax experts, specialists in logistics and operations research, corporate planners and management consultants.

MSL said that in the last decade there had been a

Jump in top financial positions

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

Executive job opportunities in Britain in finance and accounting have risen by more than a third since 1984, according to the latest survey by MSL International, the recruitment agency.

The MSL index, which has been monitoring demand for senior managerial, technical

and professional staff for the last 25 years, also shows that top appointments in research, development and design are continuing to fall in Britain and are down 24 per cent on last year and 57 per cent down on 1983.

MSL said that in the last decade there had been a

marked proliferation of professional specialists operating within senior management in industry and commerce. They included economists, statisticians, tax experts, specialists in logistics and operations research, corporate planners and management consultants.

B&C should have the last word

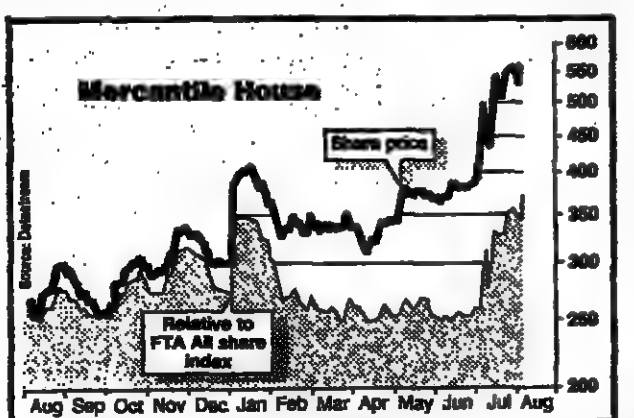
Yesterday's increased offer by British & Commonwealth for Mercantile House should be the last one that shareholders in the financial services group receive.

The way in which both Mercantile, Quadrex and their respective advisers handled the situation will doubtless be the subject of continuing debate.

But it is hard to see how, after the statement from the independent directors of the Oppenheimer mutual funds, that Mr Gary Klesch can return with a higher offer. The timing of the statement could hardly have been better. However, Mr John Barkshire, the Mercantile chairman, was adamant that it was entirely unsolicited.

It must be remembered that there has only ever been one party — B&C — which put a formal offer for Mercantile House on the table. B&C had the advantage of coming first, a great advantage in view of the delicacy of seeking approval from the directors of the mutual funds.

But even if Quadrex had been first in line, there must be some question whether it would have captured its prize given the considerations the Oppenheimer directors must take on a change of ownership in order to satisfy their legal duties to the mutual funds.



Quadrex still has a credibility hurdle to overcome. Its motives in approaching Mercantile will be questioned by some.

However, it bought 1.3 million shares at prices of up to 560p a share yesterday and it does not seem to have made "serious money" on its current shareholding of about 6 per cent in the company.

Privatizations

Who thought investing on the stock market was all a bed of roses?

Not so long ago the growing population of private investors, swept along by the Government's privatization programme and the gravity-defying behaviour of the

market, might have been forgiven for thinking so.

But the reality of equity investment has been brought home to them with a crash.

The tendency of shares to go down as well as up has been disguised for so long that coping with a falling market is something of a novelty to amateurs and professionals alike.

But there is a danger in forgetting that the fundamentals are very different now to the dark days of 1973-74. Drawing too-close comparisons between now and then could exacerbate the situation and induce all-out panic.

Debutant investors will hold a majority of privatization stocks. Few were billed as the sexiest stocks around but some have more notice-

COMMENT Kenneth Fleet

Worried Sid unlikely to rock the City boat

Shares can go down as well as up. That compulsory truth familiar from unit trust advertisements has remained a strictly theoretical possibility to many British investors, who have known only instant profits on privatization issues or tiny private share flotations in a year when average share prices rose by 50 per cent in six months.

Privatization has helped multiply the proportion of British adults owning shares from 5 per cent in 1983 to probably 20 per cent by now, well up in the world league. Thus the great majority of shareowners have only known a bull market. There have been corrections, notably in the spring of 1986. The British Telecom share price was depressed for a while on fears of Labour renationalization. But these new investors have known nothing like the sharp fall in prices which has lopped 145 points off the FT-SE 100 share index this week and wiped 9 per cent off share values since their peak three weeks ago.

This is worrying plenty of people in the City, who fear an avalanche of small selling will both hit prices and topple over the stock market's paper mountain. New investors, whether or not they match the caricature of Sid, are probably more sanguine. To start with, losses from the peak have not yet reached actual losses on subscription prices. And in practice, anyone holding a few hundred BT or British Gas shares has a much stronger incentive than bigger investors and portfolio managers to ride out the storm.

Many of the privatization issues carry one-for-ten bonuses for those who hold on. It would need a further 10 per cent fall in the market to make it worth sacrificing those. Just as important, the cost of selling (apart from special arrangements in the early days after privatization issues) is high. If the cost of buying back later is added, it might amount to nearly another 10 per cent. They were always intended to be a stabilizing force in the market.

New investors who failed to sell at the peak, or even a week ago, should therefore only be interested in selling if they think share prices are in for a long deep decline. While few are expecting any quick recovery, that is by no means yet established. Years ago, such a steep fall as we have seen would certainly evoke fears of 1929-style crashes. But the behaviour of stock markets has changed a lot recently under the influence of like-thinking institutions and instant international communication.

Increasingly, London has begun to be subject to instant corrections. Where there is a general feeling that prices have got too high, big investors are loath to miss the last juicy profits. But once the button of anxiety has been firmly pressed, prices collapse rapidly to what is generally thought to be a fair valuation — or usually just below that.

Investors in Tokyo or Hong Kong have become used to these rapid downswings, without getting into a panic. In London, people are still feeling their way.

Apart from the extra costs of dealing, there is no reason why new and small investors should not try to spot these turning points. It is a matter of feel

rather than sophistication, but requires close attention to day-by-day changes and the nerve to buy back when things look bad.

But most investors in privatization issues should see themselves either as making a profit on day one or remaining as long-term investors not worrying too much about short-term price trends. That too may require nerve in the coming weeks.

Anxious wait

After the mayhem of the past two days, the market is sorely in need of some reassurance. The Persian Gulf is in the laps of Ayatollah Khomeini and President Reagan but the time for speculating about next week's economic indicators is fast running out. Producer prices on Monday may show a year on year increase as high as 9 per cent; Tuesday's balance of payments figures, the focus of much gloom, are expected to reveal a current account surplus of between £150 million and £200 million — anything more would cause much weeping and wailing; average earnings on Thursday may show an underlying rise of a scary 8 per cent; the Retail Price Index on Friday — the measure of inflation — is likely to have accelerated to 4½ per cent.

If the City's worst estimates are wrong, and the picture turns out to be less dark than projected, market sentiment could improve rapidly.

But even if calm returns, the market mood is likely to be cautious. Share prices are looking high in relation to gilt-edged. Or putting this around the other way, equities are unlikely to recover their poise and begin moving firmly ahead until gilt-edged stocks find a solid base and fixed-interest yields begin to come down.

We now live in a global market and it is impossible to consider the gilt-edged market in isolation from trends in New York, Tokyo and Frankfurt. But the gilt market can take some heart from Nigel Lawson's decision to use interest rates to curb the supply of money and credit, for he has reaffirmed the central place of low inflation in Conservative policy and also opted for as stable a pound as he can manage. If the rate of inflation starts coming down again in the autumn, as well it might, then gilts will find their form and equities take their cue from gilts.

The other practical argument for caution is the amount of new stock coming into the market. In less than two weeks half a dozen major companies have unveiled issues totalling more than £2 billion. In the current quarter, investors — or underwriters — will be putting up by way of subscriptions to rights issues more than £5 billion, which is twice the previous record in the second quarter of 1986. With calls of £1½ billion due on the British Airways, Rolls-Royce and British Airways privatization issues and the TSB wanting another £700 million in September, we are talking about another £7 billion worth of equity in the market. And the wraps have still to be taken off the mammoth BP sale.

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If you exchange your shares into Fidelity's high performance range of unit trusts, we'll pay all your dealing costs for you. And, exclusively for BAA shareholders, we have reduced our normal £1,000 minimum to just £500 — but only for one more week until 14th August 1987. So why not brighten up your investment portfolio by calling our advisers today?

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Fidelity
MAKING MONEY MAKE MONEY

Interest Rate Change

Allied Irish Banks plc announces that with effect from close of business on 7th August 1987, its Base Rate was increased from 9% to 10% p.a.

Allied Irish Bank

Head Office — Britain: 64/66 Coleman Street, London EC2R 5AL. Tel: 01-588 0691 and branches throughout the country.

[illegible]

TRUSTS

Open	High	Low	Settle	Change	Open	High	Low	Settle	Change
Oct 87	Nov 87	Dec 87	Jan 88	Feb 88	Mar 88	Apr 88	May 88	Jun 88	Jul 88
130	132	130	131	130	131	132	130	131	130
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THIRD MARKET

[illegible]

Portfolio Gold

From your portfolio card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily dividend figure. If it matches, you have won outright or a share of the total daily prize money stated. If you are a winner follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Share Price	Dividend
1	Phoenix Timber	Building/Roads	100.00	1.00
2	Wandsworth	Drugs/Stores	100.00	1.00
3	Commerbank	Drugs/Stores	100.00	1.00
4	Harwell Plc	Drugs/Stores	100.00	1.00
5	S & U Stores	Drugs/Stores	100.00	1.00
6	Sumner Cloth	Drugs/Stores	100.00	1.00
7	Nat Aust Bk	Drugs/Stores	100.00	1.00
8	Broadway PLC	Drugs/Stores	100.00	1.00
9	Sterling Ind	Drugs/Stores	100.00	1.00
10	Belhaven	Drugs/Stores	100.00	1.00
11	Central TV	Drugs/Stores	100.00	1.00
12	Reed (Aust)	Drugs/Stores	100.00	1.00
13	Argyll (sa)	Drugs/Stores	100.00	1.00
14	Woodworth (sa)	Drugs/Stores	100.00	1.00
15	Euromark	Drugs/Stores	100.00	1.00
16	Chesney	Drugs/Stores	100.00	1.00
17	Bealish	Drugs/Stores	100.00	1.00
18	Tesco (sa)	Drugs/Stores	100.00	1.00
19	Hammer	Drugs/Stores	100.00	1.00
20	Bulmer (H F)	Drugs/Stores	100.00	1.00
21	Ward White	Drugs/Stores	100.00	1.00
22	Benchmark	Drugs/Stores	100.00	1.00
23	TVS N/V	Drugs/Stores	100.00	1.00
24	Menzies (John)	Drugs/Stores	100.00	1.00
25	Ross Consumer	Drugs/Stores	100.00	1.00
26	Micro Focus	Drugs/Stores	100.00	1.00
27	Central & Sheer	Drugs/Stores	100.00	1.00
28	Calcutt	Drugs/Stores	100.00	1.00
29	Domination Int	Drugs/Stores	100.00	1.00
30	Banksy (CH)	Drugs/Stores	100.00	1.00
31	CRUI	Drugs/Stores	100.00	1.00
32	Unilever (sa)	Drugs/Stores	100.00	1.00
33	Rothschild (J) Hld	Drugs/Stores	100.00	1.00
34	Ruckward	Drugs/Stores	100.00	1.00
35	VSEL	Drugs/Stores	100.00	1.00
36	Hoechst DM50	Drugs/Stores	100.00	1.00
37	Aras Energy	Drugs/Stores	100.00	1.00
38	Amec	Drugs/Stores	100.00	1.00
39	Stockdale	Drugs/Stores	100.00	1.00
40	Cables	Drugs/Stores	100.00	1.00
41	Rush & Tompkins	Drugs/Stores	100.00	1.00
42	Armour	Drugs/Stores	100.00	1.00
43	Invergordon Dist	Drugs/Stores	100.00	1.00
44	Investment Dist	Drugs/Stores	100.00	1.00

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend						
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £8,000 in today's newspaper.						
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN

BRITISH FUNDS			
High	Low	Open	Close

SHORTS (Under Five Years)			
High	Low	Open	Close

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS			
High	Low	Open	Close

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS			
High	Low	Open	Close

UNDATED			
High	Low	Open	Close

INDEX-LINKED			
High	Low	Open	Close

BANKS DISCOUNT HP			
High	Low	Open	Close

BANKS DISCOUNT HP			
High	Low	Open	Close

BANKS DISCOUNT HP			
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BANKS DISCOUNT HP			
High	Low	Open	Close

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Equities fall continues

(Current market price multiplied by the number of shares in issue for the stock quoted)
ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began on July 27. Dealings ended yesterday. Contango day Monday. Settlement day August 17.
Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices are recorded at 5pm. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close and may differ from changes calculated by comparing 5pm prices, published the previous day. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (aa) denotes Alpha Stocks. (VOLUMES PAGE 24.)

1987	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Vol	P/E
1987	100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	10.00

ELECTRICALS							
1987	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Vol	P/E
1987	100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	10.00

BREWERIES							
1987	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Vol	P/E
1987	100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	10.00

BUILDINGS AND ROADS							
1987	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Vol	P/E
1987	100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	10.00

FINANCE AND LAND							
1987	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Vol	P/E
1987	100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	10.00

FOODS							
1987	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Vol	P/E
1987	100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	10.00

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS							
1987	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Vol	P/E
1987	100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	10.00

CINEMAS AND TV							
1987	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Vol	P/E
1987	100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	10.00

HOTELS AND CATERERS							
1987	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Vol	P/E
1987	100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	10.00

INDUSTRIALS A-D							
1987	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Vol	P/E
1987	100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	10.00

ELECTRICALS							
1987	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Vol	P/E
1987	100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	10.00

BREWERIES							
1987	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Vol	P/E
1987	100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	10.00

BUILDINGS AND ROADS							
1987	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Vol	P/E
1987	100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	10.00

FINANCE AND LAND							
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FOODS							
1987	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Vol	P/E
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1987	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Vol	P/E
1987	100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	10.00

CINEMAS AND TV							
1987	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Vol	P/E
1987	100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	10.00

HOTELS AND CATERERS							
1987	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Vol	P/E
1987	100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	10.00

INDUSTRIALS A-D							
1987	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Vol	P/E
1987	100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	10.00

INDUSTRIALS E-H							
1987	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Vol	P/E
1987	100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	10.00

ELECTRICALS							
1987	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Vol	P/E
1987	100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	10.00

BREWERIES							
1987	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Vol	P/E
1987	100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	10.00

BUILDINGS AND ROADS							
1987	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Vol	P/E
1987	100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	10.00

FINANCE AND LAND							
1987	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Vol	P/E
1987	100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	10.00

FOODS							
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1987	100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	10.00

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS							
1987	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Vol	P/E
1987	100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	10.00

CINEMAS AND TV							
1987	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Vol	P/E
1987	100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	10.00

HOTELS AND CATERERS							
1987	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Vol	P/E
1987	100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	10.00

INDUSTRIALS A-D							
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1987	100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	10.00

INDUSTRIALS E-H							
1987	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Vol	P/E
1987	100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	10.00

ELECTRICALS							
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BREWERIES							
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BUILDINGS AND ROADS							
1987	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Vol	P/E
1987	100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	10.00

FINANCE AND LAND</							
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Edited by Amanda Pardoe

FAMILY MONEY/1

THIS WEEK

Difficult month for unit trust investments2

Windfall after a street fall?2

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Paper problems pile up

Steps are being taken by the Stock Exchange to clear the backlog of unsettled bargains, but the problem will not be solved overnight. AMANDA PARDOE looks at the difficulties for investors.

Sir Nicholas Goodison, chairman of the Stock Exchange, held a series of meetings with brokers this week to examine the mounting problem of late settlements. Both the Stock Exchange and the Bank of England consider the huge backlog a serious issue.

The problem has arisen for a variety of reasons, one of which is the massive increase in the volume of transactions, which has not been made any easier by the Government's privatization programme.

The enormous response to privatizations puts extra pressure on the brokers. When investors sell their allocation, brokers have to deliver the allotment letters within 48 hours of purchase, which means that they are so busy handling these that the normal account business is neglected.

Added to this is the fact that many brokers are under-resourced; it is not uncommon for them to have to work 15 hours a day, seven days a week, when dealing in a privatization issue. Recruitment is made difficult because of a shortage of trained settlement staff.

Though the Stock Exchange recognizes that some of its member firms

are having serious difficulties coping with the paperwork, problems are also being caused by registrars. Instead of processing certificates within 14 days as they are supposed to, they are taking five to six weeks on average.

Various steps have been taken to improve the situation. The Stock Exchange has written to the Government asking it to discuss the timing and mechanics of each new issue, and has apparently received a favourable response.

Letters have also been sent to the top 24 registrars. To put pressure on them to speed up their operations, the Stock Exchange has said it may give the names of those who do not improve their operations to member firms, or make a list of the average time taken to process every share traded.

To make brokers speed up settlements, the Stock Exchange Council approved a resolution this week that allows it to impose trading restrictions on securities firms with a serious backlog of unsettled bargains.

Fines may be levied, or restrictions imposed on either the number of hours in which they trade or the number of bargains which they may make in a given period of time. As an extreme measure, a broker may be suspended from trading altogether.

The Stock Exchange has a software program which identifies all member firms and gives comprehensive details of bargains made. Consequently, it is



Goodison, left, and Baker: worried about the backlog of paperwork

already beginning to identify the worst offenders.

To help solve the staffing problem, the Stock Exchange is looking at setting up a central training scheme for settlement staff.

The present backlog of settlements is certainly not going to be cleared overnight. Michael Baker, head of the special task force which is trying to solve the problem, expects that significant inroads will be made in the next three to four months.

In the meantime, investors who are thinking of buying shares and selling them fairly quickly should remember that they may encounter difficulties.

Many brokers will accept instructions to sell shares without the certificate, but investors who choose to sell before receiving their certificate may find that payment is delayed.

In this situation, the broker cannot deliver the shares to the market, so he or she does not get paid, which means that on account day he has to choose between borrowing to pay the client or telling him he cannot pay until he receives the certificate.

One way around this is for the investor to indicate on the transfer form that the certificate is awaited following a recent purchase. The broker can then contact the appropriate registrar and ask for the transfer form to be "certificated". The problem here is that whereas the process used to take a day, it is now taking more than a week.

Investors who are planning to sell before they have their certificate should ask the broker if he knows how long it will be before the certificate will be available, and if he will be willing to pay without it. If the broker will not pay without it, it is worth contacting other firms.

However, many brokers recognize that they cannot cope with a massive number of private clients and are not taking on new business. Anyone who has an established relationship with a broker should therefore think twice before giving this up, even if they are not prepared to pay without certificates.

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TT 5/6/87

Survive the fall by sitting tight

News of the worst fall for shares in a day, is bound to make even the most experienced investor wonder whether this is the end of the bull market, writes Amanda Pardoe. Is it time to sell, or should they sit tight?

Fred Carr, a partner in the London stockbrokers Capel-Care Myers, says: "I don't think this is the beginning of a tremendous bear market." He sees it as a correction; the market needed. His advice to people is to be "fairly relaxed".

Anyone with a good spread of investments who has notched up an attractive profit on their UK investments need decide to sell.

However, he says, it would be unwise to go completely into cash. He suggests that investors should either stay put or sell a small percentage.

He expects that the market will bounce back, and that anyone wanting to take profits should wait for that.

Andrew Jones, a fund manager with Target Group also advises people to sit tight.

"Don't panic and sell at this level," he says. "I think that this is a healthy correction."

But Mr Jones is keen to emphasise that individuals should always make investment decisions based on their own circumstances. "They should ask themselves how risk-averse they are," he says. "Are they prepared to risk the profits they have made?"

He added: "The interesting thing about a fall like this is that it demonstrates that equities can go down. Too many new investors are unaware of the risks involved in equity investment."

What price advice?

Philip Chappell, a special adviser to the Association of Investment Trust Companies, received a phone call out of the blue recently from a "financial intermediary" claiming to offer expert personal financial planning advice.

The intermediary came from a well-known firm which for legal reasons we cannot name. The mystery caller clearly had no idea that Mr Chappell was an expert on financial products. Nor did he know that the AITC is a strong critic of the new investor-protection rules due to come into effect in 1988.

The AITC thinks the rules requiring financial intermediaries to recommend only the most suitable products to their clients are misleading.

The AITC is hardly a disinterested party. Investment trusts do not pay commissions to intermediaries and so tend to be ignored by them in their recommendations, although they are less expensive and have probably performed better in the long term than, say, unit trusts or insurance bonds.

The intermediary introduced his firm to Mr Chappell by saying: "We are totally independent. Any recommendation made by myself to my clients is totally unbiased."

It was only after pressure from Mr Chappell that he admitted he could advise only on life-assurance-related products.

Mr Chappell told me: "I was struck by the limited nature of

his knowledge... he suggested I put cash which I have in the bank into an insurance bond, which is entirely unsuitable for someone like me."

Insurance bonds, incidentally, are known to be high commission-paying products.

The new investor-protection rules will require intermediaries to give best advice, but only within the area of competence that they have. In the case of an intermediary who is familiar only with life-assurance and unit trusts, "best advice" will in most cases mean choosing the most suitable life or unit-trust product.

The AITC is unhappy with this state of affairs because it means the intermediary can ignore the non-commission paying investment trusts in giving his advice and still fulfil his duties.

Meanwhile, key investor-protection rules particularly relevant to small investors will not be ready in time for the target date of January 1 when it is hoped the Financial Services Act will come into force.

It will not be until July 1988 that rules limiting the way in which insurance companies can illustrate the potential returns on their products will come into effect. A similar delay will affect rules requiring insurance companies, in certain circumstances, to disclose the amount of commission that they earn on life-assurance products.

Lawrence Lever

Time to put down the second half.



If you said "yes" to the TSB Group Shares last September, you paid half the price of your shares.

We'd like to remind you that the second half is now due. It must be received by 3pm on 8th September 1987, or you may lose the right to your shares and/or any entitlement to bonus shares.

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Please send your payment as soon as possible in the pre-addressed envelope. Remember to

enclose the whole document with your payment.

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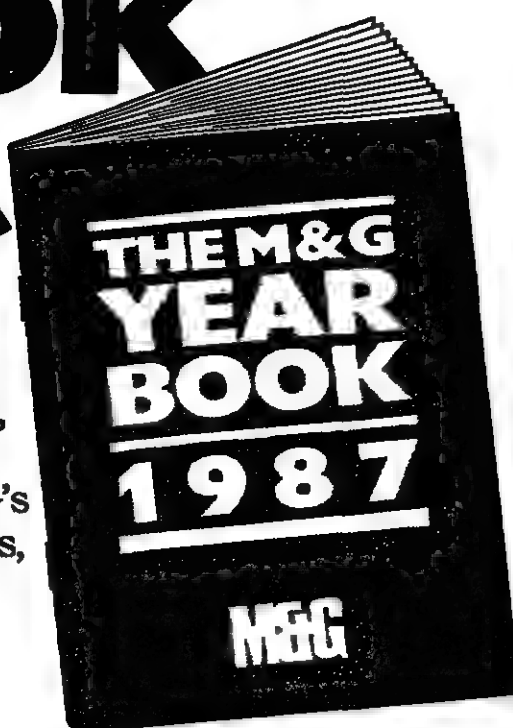
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BRITAIN'S LEADING UNIT TRUST GROUP

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Gold shines as doubt spreads

UNIT TRUSTS

July proved a difficult month for stockmarket analysts and unit trust investors alike, as the leading equity markets tended to go their own way.

Sentiment, rather than economic fundamentals, seemed to be the driving force, as investors latched on only to those bits of news that reinforced their basic gut feelings to buy or sell.

In the UK market, investors were looking for an excuse to sell. It came towards the end of the month with the publication of the bank lending figures hinting at higher inflation to come.

Poor trade figures and Middle East tensions were subsequently seized on to justify the selling wave and even a bullish CBI report failed to reverse the trend.

Despite this, several UK invested trusts did well, particularly those in the smaller-company or special-situation areas. Gilt funds had a

rough ride, although the growing number that have added convertibles as a defensive measure tended to do better than the average.

By contrast, Wall Street managed to shrug off any bad news that came its way and established a few new record close figures during the month.

Investors ignored the awful trade figures, the frigate saga and what was happening in the Gulf, concentrating instead on the strong second quarter corporate profits coming through. The Dow Jones index has now just about doubled over the last two years.

The Japanese sector was a great disappointment for unit trust investors last month, but few could have been terribly surprised when the setback came.

Uncertainty about the exchange rate and interest rates was the general explanation, but basically investors were looking for any excuse to retreat to the sidelines for a

while. By the end of the month there were signs that the mood had changed yet again, investors returned and the market actually chalked up its biggest one-day gain.

The rally came too late for unit trust investors, however, only one fund out of 59 made any gain over July.

Far-eastern funds which had high Hong Kong and low Japanese contents fared better. Analysts seem to have virtually given up trying to rationalize the Hong Kong equity market, putting every quirk down to the "China factor".

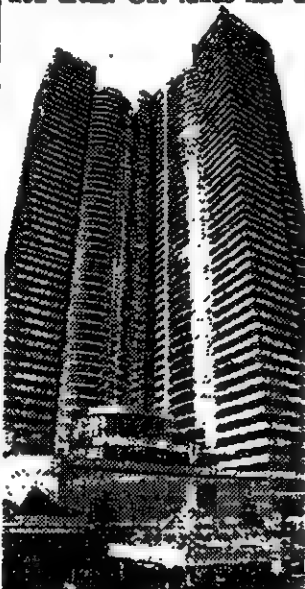
For unit trust investors, however, the place to have been last month was the commodity and energy sector, or more specifically, in a gold fund. As tensions rose in the Middle East, so too did the gold price, that traditional bolt-hole in times of trouble.

The FT Gold Mines Index is up almost 250 per cent over the last 12 months and the one-year performance table is dominated by gold funds.

UNIT TRUST PERFORMANCE

Value of £100 as at August 1, 1987

THE BEST		THE WORST	
One Year	Three Years	One Year	Three Years
Waverley Aust Gold 328.1	FS Balanced Growth 778.2	EFM Smaller Japanese Co 95.2	Abbey US Emerging Cos 119.6
S & P Exploration 275.0	TR Specie Optima 588.3	Govett Japan Growth 94.8	Henderson American Rec 118.5
Gartmore Gold Share 273.6	TR Smaller Companies 477.8	Sun Alliance Worldwide 94.7	Scottish Prov Index Link 115.9
NM Schroder Gold 269.0	Arkwright 459.1	Scottish Prov Index Link 94.7	Target Technology 115.1
M & G Aust & General 268.2	Gumess Mahon Recovery 450.7	Beckman Int Capital 94.3	Sentinel American Tech 114.8
M & G Gold & General 256.0	Hill Samuel Smi Cos 436.4	Waverley Worldw Bond 94.2	MIM Britannia Wid Tech 114.7
Abbey Commodity & Eng 255.5	Brown Shipley Recovery 427.2	Abbey Worldwide Bond 94.2	Target Australia 108.8
Legal & General Nat Res 249.2	Key Income 422.9	Dunedin Japan Smi Cos 90.2	Canada Growth 104.8
Waverley Pacific Basin 245.5	Fidelity Spec Situation 422.4	Gartmore Japan 83.4	MIM Britannia Unit Eng 103.2
Govett Gold & Minerals 244.2	County Smaller Cos 419.5		
FT Average 142.9	FT Average 251.3		



Hong Kong stock exchange: Some far eastern funds have fared better this month.

Offer to bid basis
Net income reinvested

Source: Planned Savings

Now you could sue if you slip up in the street

Have you ever badly twisted an ankle as a result of tripping over a jutting paving stone? Perhaps you were off work for a week, perhaps you lost a week's pay.

You thought about suing the council but did not, either because you did not think you would stand a chance, or because proceedings would be too costly. Well, a new scheme could help you.

The Accident Legal Advice Service (Alas) has been designed to enable anyone or a member of their immediate family who suffers an injury or accident to have a free interview with a solicitor to establish whether it is worth pursuing a claim for compensation.

Surprisingly, though the pavement example seems a relatively simple one, the National Consumers Council recently estimated that there are more than three million pavement accidents every year, yet a minimal number of victims seek legal advice.

The initial interview will be to establish whether or not there are grounds for action. The interviewee will be advised whether to make a claim and whether or not he/she is entitled to legal aid, which turns on income and savings.

The Law Society has produced a leaflet explaining the service's advantages and procedures and posters are being distributed to various public places, including libraries, social-services offices and citizens advice centres.

Accident victims need not contact a solicitor direct, although this is one option. They can use the explanatory leaflet to request an interview via a central office or they can use a telephone reply service or go to their Citizens Advice Bureau or to any solicitor advertising the service.

In any event, every effort will be made for an appointment for a first interview to be set up with a local practice.

If there is no local participant in the scheme, and 2,500 practices throughout the country are involved, the Law Society will refer inquiries to local solicitors on a rota basis.

This and similar schemes have already been piloted around the country and it is estimated that the numbers of people who could benefit as a result of being told their rights and advised of the viability of pursuing claims could run to tens of thousands.

The fact that you may as a result of an accident be receiving



ing sickness or invalidity benefit or one of the other disability/sickness-related benefits does not mean you would lose any rights to bringing an independent action against the "cause" of your injury.

Too few people have realized that they have any rights to compensation from a negligent party. The introduction of Alas may go some way towards rectifying that situation.

Charles Jackson

For further information contact Alas, 113 Chancery Lane, London WC2A 1PL (tel: 01-242 1222).

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* Gross equivalent assuming basic rate tax.

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Yesterday, Lloyds Bank responded to the rise in base rates from 9 per cent to 10 per cent by increasing its mortgage rate from 10.8 to 11.5 per cent. Before August 1, existing borrowers were charged 11.3 per cent.

The revised rate applies immediately to new borrowers and with effect from September 1 for existing borrowers.

The Halifax Building Society has now cancelled the lower mortgage rate announced this week. It announced on Wednesday that the rate charged to its 1.5 million existing borrowers would fall to 10.8 per cent on September 1, bringing them in line with the rate charged to new borrowers since June.

However, in view of the rise in base rates, John Spalding, chief executive of the Halifax, said yesterday that it is likely

What you'll pay for your loan

that 11.25 per cent will be confirmed as the rate for both new and existing borrowers as from September 1.

Abbey National's existing borrowers, who have been looking forward to a new rate of 10.5 per cent from September 1, may also be disappointed. But, John Bayliss, general manager, marketing, at the Abbey says "It's wrong to assume that the rise in base rates means a reversal. There are much wider issues to consider - we want to be competitive in the whole mortgage market, and that's what

we have to make a judgement on."

Mr Bayliss says that even if the Abbey decides not to reduce the rate to 10.5 per cent, it may opt for a rate lower than the present 11.25 per cent. Other societies, such as the Alliance & Leicester, Leeds Permanent, Nationwide and the Woolwich have no plans to move their rates.

When the two biggest societies announced on June 17 that they were reducing the rate for new borrowers, the others sat tight. The typical mortgage rate charged by the building societies has therefore stayed at 11.25 per cent.

Scott Durward, chief general manager of the Alliance & Leicester, sees no reason for a change unless base rates change again.

Amanda Pardoe

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Bank of Scotland Base Rate

Bank of Scotland announces that, with effect from Friday 7th August 1987 its Base Rate has been increased from 9.00% per annum to 10.00% per annum



Snap goes the chain

Various schemes can help the potential purchaser whose own buyer may have reneged on the agreement to buy. Perhaps the most cash-efficient method is to obtain a bridging loan but this needs to be done speedily.

Home Bridging, in association with Royal Life, offers "open" and "closed" bridging loans. The company says it can process loan applications within 24 hours.

Home Bridging believes its ability to process loans swiftly, is proving its greatest strength. The company says that during the year since its launch, requests for about 500 loans totalling more than £50 million have been received and are running at about 100 a month.

Loans are offered, subject to status, for between £20,000 and £200,000 to a limit of 95 per cent of the value of the old home. Home Bridging charges 3.5 per cent over base rate for a three-month maximum period.

Increasingly, house-builders and financial institutions are offering chain-breaking services that are variations on the theme of buying your house at a discount to unblock a stalled chain of sales.

Prudential Property Services started its chain-break

Under the anomaly of English law, no home is safely sold until contracts have been exchanged, which can take several months. A chain of purchasers can therefore develop with no one prepared to be committed. But, writes DIANA WILDMAN, help is at hand

ing service in November. It will buy a house for about 7.5 per cent less than its market value, once these criteria are met.

● Both the property and proposed purchase must be handled by a PPS estate agent.

● It must have already been sold, subject to contract.

● The chain has definitely collapsed, so the vendor cannot complete or exchange, but is either committed to or wants to buy a particular new home.

Christopher Haley, a PPS business development executive, says: "We make our profit by completing two sales which could otherwise eventually go elsewhere. The 7.5 per cent discount must be looked at nationally."

"The London and south-east market is strong, with

properties normally selling quickly but in the North-East, for example, the 'sale-on' may take longer."

Mr Haley breaks down the 7.5 per cent discount in this way:

● Sales commission when the property is sold, 2 per cent.

● Three months (average) to carry the property at 1.25 per cent carrying costs per month, 3.75 per cent.

● Solicitors' fees in both purchase and sale, 1.5 per cent.

● Administrative costs 0.25 per cent.

The Legal & General's scheme, soon to be reviewed, is similar. Its first criterion is that the client must be using one of the 800 estate agents with which it has a relationship. It requires an initial £150 and wants an independent valuation, paid for by the vendor, together with a report from the estate agent.

L & G then determines the discount, subject to individual scrutiny.

Hedley Greatbatch, L & G's mortgage marketing manager, says: "We have had a chain-breaking facility for the last year, but we consider it really should be considered by the vendor as a last resort. We will make an offer based on the independent valuation and this price reflects the discount."

Schools plan by Sun Life

Sun Life of Canada has launched the Immediate School Fees Plan. Under the scheme, a secured-loan facility is agreed with the Bank of Scotland. Parents can draw on the loan at any time, using a cheque book. The loan can run for between 10 and 25 years, and is repaid by any suitable Sun Life of Canada investment policy.

Interest on the loan is either Bank of Scotland base rate plus 2 per cent or the bank's home loan rate plus 1 per cent. The arrangement fee for the loan is £150.



Jaguar XK150: a classic car and now not so hard to insure

Vintage Motor Policies of Worthing is a new company which has been set up to provide insurance for old but valuable cars which are used for a limited mileage each year. The managing director, Geoff Salwell, believes that many motor insurance companies are neither interested in, nor equipped to deal with this specialist market.

Cover for accidental damage, fire and theft is being underwritten by Isle of Man

Lloyds Bank announced yesterday that the interest rate charged to its Access cardholders will rise by 0.1 per cent a month to 1.9 per cent a month (APR 25.3) with effect from September 4.

Friends' Provident is launching four new unit trusts on October 13: International Growth, European Growth, North American Stewardship and the Stewardship Income Trust. Towards the end of the year, a regular savings plan will be introduced.

Members of the Manchester Building Society can now order both Sterling travellers cheques and foreign currency from any of its 50 agencies. No commission is charged.

Portfolio Gold

For readers who may have missed a copy of The Times this week, we repeat below the week's Portfolio price changes (today's are on page 27).

Unit	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Today
1	+6	+2	+3	+5	+4		
2	+3	+3	+6	+7	+2		
3	+4	+2	+2	+2	+2		
4	+5	+2	+2	+4	+4		
5	+5	+5	+3	+4	+2		
6	+3	+1	+2	+3	+1		
7	+4	+1	+6	+6	+4		
8	+4	+3	+3	+1	+3		
9	+2	+2	+2	+5	+7		
10	+4	+2	+3	+3	+5		
11	+6	+3	+5	+3	+1		
12	+5	+4	+2	+6	+3		
13	+3	+2	+1	+5	+3		
14	+3	+2	+2	+2	+2		
15	+2	+1	+5	+6	+3		
16	+2	+3	+2	+4	+4		
17	+5	+3	+6	+3	+4		
18	+2	+5	+2	+1	+1		
19	+2	+2	+3	+2	+2		
20	+1	+2	+5	+4	+3		
21	+7	+5	+9	+4	+4		
22	+4	+1	+3	+3	+2		
23	+1	+3	+5	+7	+2		
24	+6	+2	+3	+5	+5		
25	+1	+2	+3	+2	+4		
26	+5	+4	+2	+2	+2		
27	+4	+5	+3	+3	+3		
28	+1	+3	+5	+3	+4		
29	+4	+2	+3	+3	+2		
30	+6	+3	+1	+5	+2		
31	+2	+2	+6	+6	+3		
32	+3	+5	+5	+3	+3		
33	+1	+2	+3	+3	+1		
34	+7	+3	+5	+2	+3		
35	+4	+1	+6	+4	+1		
36	+8	+2	+3	+1	+3		
37	+6	+3	+2	+5	+3		
38	+3	+1	+2	+3	+2		
39	+7	+4	+4	+6	+5		
40	+8	+1	+1	+4	+2		
41	+6	+1	+2	+5	+2		
42	+2	+2	+5	+6	+2		
43	+3	+2	+1	+3	+2		
44	+5	+3	+2	+1	+1		

THE SUN SETS AS THE DRAGON RISES

The Far Eastern Markets including Japan, are offering the private investor an opportunity to achieve real capital growth through unit trusts over the coming months.

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Law Report August 8 1987

Assessing equitable interest in house

Passer v Passer
Before Lord Justice Woolf and
Lord Justice Nicholls
[Judgment July 8]

In assessing a claimant's equitable interest in a property it was wrong to disregard contributions made towards the mortgage on the ground that at that stage the mortgage repayments consisted mainly of interest and not principal.

Accordingly, the Court of Appeal varied an order made by Judge Main, QC, at Brentford County Court on March 30, 1987 in an action between the plaintiff, Selwyn Wilfred Ashley Passer, and the defendant, Leda Passer.

Mr Martin Jones for the defendant, Mr Donald Lambic for the plaintiff.

LORD JUSTICE NICHOLLS said that the defendant, who was the plaintiff's aunt, acted for herself and as personal representative of the estate of her daughter, Claudia, who died in 1972. The action concerned a house at 34 Bedford Road, Ealing, London which was registered in the sole name of the plaintiff.

The plaintiff claimed possession and mesne profit but the substantive issues arose in the defendant's counter-claim as to whether the defendant and Claudia's estate had any beneficial interest in the house and if so the extent of that interest.

The judge ordered that the plaintiff held the house on trust for himself and the defendant and the estate of Claudia in the

proportions of one-tenth for the defendant, one-eighth for Claudia's estate and the remainder for himself.

There was a conflict of evidence at the trial and the judge concluded that he preferred that of the defendant who said that the decision to buy the house was a joint decision of the parties and Claudia, who had contributed £500 while Claudia contributed £250, and that neither sum had been repaid.

The defendant and Claudia then contributed weekly to outgoings including the mortgage repayments. The judge said that the problem of quantification was always difficult and in the present case complicated by Claudia's death in 1972. The defendant was devastated but remained in the house until November 1985, and continued to pay her way.

The plaintiff carried out a great deal of work to maintain and improve the house with the aid of further loans and the defendant played no part in any of those decisions. The house was valued at £57,500 in May 1986.

In arriving at his decision the judge took into consideration that at the early stages the mortgage repayments would have been mainly interest and that there were in the house other resident members of the family, not claiming to be part owners, who had also paid similar weekly contributions.

The judge took the view that the defendant's share in the equity derived from her initial

contribution and that in any event it in effect crystallized on Claudia's death in 1972. On appeal the defendant submitted that she was personally entitled to two-fifths of the property and that the estate of Claudia was entitled to a one-fifth share.

She criticized the judge's reasoning in that having found that the plaintiff was the nominal owner to avoid complications with the mortgage, the judge gave very little weight to the assistance given by the defendant and Claudia towards mortgage repayments on the ground that there was a distinction between principal and interest.

In his Lordship's view the judge fell into error in an important respect and in the context of the figures, the mortgage repayments were a significant item.

Moreover there was no justification for the judge to crystallize the defendant's interest at the date of Claudia's death, having regard to the fact that the judge accepted that she continued to pay her way.

The judge also misdirected himself in having regard to rent contributions paid by non-owner relations living in the house. Those were contributions made to defray expenses in the house which were shared by the plaintiff, defendant and Claudia, and had no effect on their interest in the property.

However, based upon the principles set out by Lord Justice Fox in *Burns v Burns* (1984) Ch 317, 326 the judge was right to take into account

laborious process and difficult to adjust to for both the solicitors and the agency".

Despite the misgivings of some solicitors, Michael White is convinced that the profession as a whole will have to become much more sophisticated in its dealing with the outside world.

"The challenge to us in PR is to produce something which is appropriate to the client and will also suit their various markets — and when you are dealing with an international firm that can sometimes be very complex," said Mr White, who considers that the role of brochures in particular will become increasingly important.

Overall, therefore, the signs are that for different reasons and different ways the professions are coming round to accept the idea of the need for advertising.

"In general we've been surprised how well people have taken to it," said Susan Wood of the Law Society.

"There were lots of people who said it would never happen but the number of firms who have done something has been surprising. In the long term it is bound to grow considerably."

A classic example of a new mood in the profession was seen in Hampshire where the local Law Society decided recently that it was important to promote the services of its members as a group in an attempt to counter the threat to their traditional bread and butter business from other specialists.

The result was a somewhat tentative television ad on TVS in which the viewer was treated to the sight of scores of local lawyers standing in parkland, clad in Barbour green-waxed jackets.

The exact allegorical significance of this image was not, it must be admitted, altogether clear. The cynical viewer might have been forgiven for thinking that all these solicitors would have been better spending the day in the office on a bit of conveyancing or replying to their backlog of letters rather than posing for television. Frankly, appealing for work while simultaneously complaining that they already have too much seems a perverse way of serving the public.

Nonetheless, we clearly have a long way to go before we are exposed to the brashness of American lawyers who have pushed their TV advertisements to the limits of good taste. So long as my solicitor continues to look uncomfortable in front of a camera I'll know I can trust him.

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Pakistan's ship comes in on a Mexican wave

By John Woodcock
Cricket Correspondent

THE OVAL: Pakistan have scored 616 for six against England.

Any lingering doubts the Pakistanis may have harboured on Thursday evening about winning their first Test series in England disappeared yesterday when they took their first innings in the fifth Test match, sponsored by Cornhill Insurance, to 616 for six, of which Javed Miandad made 260. Only three wickets fell in the day and no one was out without having first passed a hundred.

All hopes of a faster pitch than usual have come to nothing, due partly, of course, to the wet summer. Within a quarter of an hour of the start of the match on Thursday, it had become probable that if Pakistan batted anything like as well as they can they should score enough to make them secure from defeat.

In the event, England themselves soon seemed resigned to that and yesterday they were without the services of Foster, prevented from bowling by a strained side.

For 20 minutes before tea, with Gattling on at one end and Moxon at the other, Javed and Imran must have known that their ship had come in. For the fourth wicket Javed and Salim Malik had added 234, the second largest partnership made for Pakistan against England; then, for the fifth wicket, Javed and Imran put on 191.

Pakistan's total is their highest against England and Javed's own score the second highest, 14 behind Zaheer's 274 at Edgbaston in 1971. This was Miandad's fourth double hundred in Tests, a number equalled or bettered only by six others. Needless to say, Bradman is out at the head of the field.

Javed had batted for 10 hours 25 minutes and hit 28 fours and a six when, rather tiredly, he gave a low return catch to Dilley.

Just as they had on the first day, Pakistan found some easy

pickings in the early overs. Off Dilley's first, for example, Salim Malik took 13. Runs poured out of the leg side until I wondered whether England's bowlers had come straight from the breakfast table.

Golfers with a teeing-off time at 8 a.m., in what in their world would correspond to a Test match, are on the practice ground at 6.30 to try to be sure

More cricket on page 37

that their opening drive beats the fairway. Yesterday had Dilley been loosening up in the nets? Because in his thirtieth Test match, after bowling 17 overs the day before, he should have made a more accurate start than he did, even with a sore ankle.

Except when he forgot that he is a rather portly 32 and not 25, and tried to induce batsmen's errors by bowling short, Botham was more economical and when Malik moved into the 90s he was made to work for his 100, his sixth for Pakistan and second against England.

Having got out at 99 in the Headingley Test, he was going to make no mistake this time. His other 100 off the England bowling (Foster, Dilley, Nick Cook, Marks, Gattling and Fowler) was at Faisalabad, where the best of the Pakistanis can make runs in a blindfold. The news that the Test match scheduled for Sialkot this winter has been switched to Faisalabad is not what England were hoping to hear.

Because of the time the bowlers took to settle down, and the usual absence of a third man, the first hour yesterday cost England more runs — 60 off 15 overs — than any other in the fifth. Their one success was Malik's wicket after 80 minutes play when he flat-batted a wide ball from Botham straight to cover point.

When Imran, who replaced Malik, pulled his first ball, a Botham long hop, for three and drove his third, from

Emburey, for six, England may have wondered whether they were not better off with Malik but that was not, in fact, as Imran was to continue.

Rather than hounding and harassing England through the afternoon, Pakistan scored only 94 in 34 overs between lunch and tea. At around 3 p.m. there was some mild bawling and after tea the Mexican wave appeared, a nasty, litter-laden version. By then, Imran was moving inevitably to his first hundred against England, a high-class, untroubled innings that lasted for four hours 20 minutes.

At the close of play on the second day of the Timeless Test against Australia in 1938, when Hutton made his 364, England were 634 for five, the tea interval having been slightly extended through rain. But Pakistan have a long way to go to the 903 for seven at which England declared then.

I like to think, anyway, that they will want to be bowling before lunch today. When the time does come it will be interesting to see how England's batting compares with Pakistan's bowling and vice versa. There should surely be some England hundreds in the offing.

But England were probably happier now not to have to start their innings last night while weary after so long in the field. Dilley, in fact, was just about to go off when he removed Miandad. With three balls of an over left, he cut down his runs and at once held a juggling caught-and-bowled. He had bowled 19 overs, which was a useful effort in the end.

Emburey's 28 overs for 56 runs in the day were creditable and Botham kept going well, besides contributing a fierce shot to throw out Imran as he went for a fourth run. Radford had given chase to the third-man boundary and Botham had come by the ball by backing him up. It was to England's credit, too, that they have bowled neither a wide nor a no-ball in two days. But the overriding impression has been of a task beyond them.

Miandad's revenge timed well

By Alan Lee

Javed Miandad's monumental innings was ominously foreshadowed on Wednesday afternoon. Mike Gatting, perhaps unwittingly, was unwise enough to draw attention to the fact that Miandad had not made a significant score in this Cornhill series and the little maestro, who enjoys nothing better than making opponents look foolish, was never likely to allow that one to go unmentioned.

England had been living in fear of this all summer, but Miandad chose the moment of maximum impact. His run put an England victory beyond even Botham's miracles and, as the realization dawned, the Pakistan dressing room became a den of noisy relief. The series was won, the job all but done.

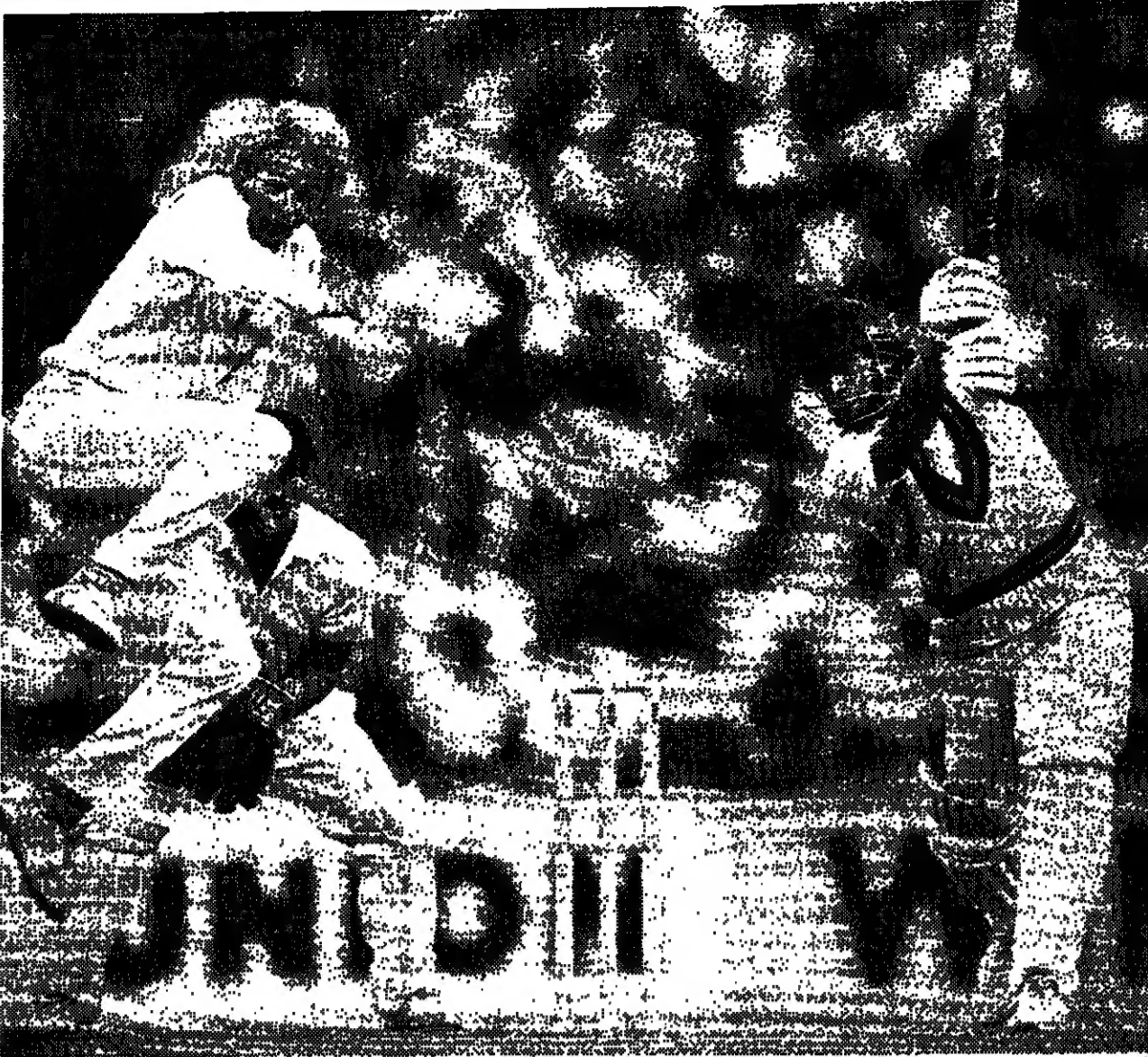
It had been evident on Thursday night that Miandad's plans stretched far beyond the century already in his pocket. "I am hungry for runs," he reported, "and I see tomorrow as one of Pakistan's most vital days."

At 30, Miandad certainly has the world at his feet. Whether or not one rates him the No. 1 batsman, his Test average of 54.35 places him among the peerage. In 56 Tests and 133 innings, he has scored 6,251 runs, and this was his fifteenth hundred, although it failed to beat his highest score, 280 not out against India at Hyderabad in 1982-83.

Less easy to assess is his popularity level. He often provokes admiration and irritation in roughly equal volumes; he has probably been involved in a dubious incident for each one of his Test centuries.

Unarguably an agitator on the field and a politician off it, Miandad can still be portrayed in unfairly black terms. Even in country cricket, he was a skilled and willing adviser to the less-gifted, a role he still plays now at national level. Team colleagues say his moods range from introspective silence to rowdy good humour, but his latest dressing room mission is intriguing.

At a time when he stands to inherit the Pakistan captaincy again, Miandad is devoting himself to persuading Imran to postpone his retirement. He says he did not enjoy his two previous spells in the job and that he is convinced this Pakistan side could become a major power if only Imran will stay on.



By leaps and bounds: Gower provides the leaps as Imran bounds to a new high with his century (Photograph: Ian Stewart)

Floyd in early half-way lead

From Mitchell Platts, Golf Correspondent, Palm Beach Gardens, Florida

Raymond Floyd captured the early half-way lead in the 69th US PGA Championship with a second successive round of 70 on the PGA National course here yesterday.

Floyd, who lives at Indian Creek on Miami Beach, once again demonstrated his ability to cope with the oppressive conditions. He dropped shots at only two holes which means that he has now made only three scoring errors in 36 holes. It is an excellent achievement on such a terrifying course.

The key to overcoming the PGA National course is to remain on the straight and narrow as any excursion to the rough is usually severely punished.

Greg Norman, surprisingly was one of the most notable victims as he began by dropping a shot at the first and another three at the next where he took seven. Thereafter Norman, who was out in 41, struggled in vain to arrest

his decline. He finished with a 78 for a score of 151.

Nick Faldo began with a birdie at the first hole from 20 feet. However, he dropped shots at the seventh, where he missed the green, eighth where he drove into the rough, and he was eventually compelled to settle for a round of 73 and a half way aggregate of 146. "I'm satisfied with that," he said. "It's a question of survival in this heat. I was drained after 12 holes and it's difficult to keep your concentration. But you've got to do that because if you waiver then you will run into trouble."

Meanwhile, Larry Mize and Scott Simpson, the reigning US Masters and US Open champions respectively who were Faldo's playing partners, finished no fewer than 12 over par and seven over par.

Floyd's marksmanship could rarely be faulted as he moved towards a four under

par half way aggregate of 140 which earned for him a slender lead of one shot over Tim Simpson. Severiano Ballesteros and Ben Crenshaw each took 70 to finish with scores of 142.

Bobby Wadkins, the first round leader following a 68, was among the late starters along with Bernhard Langer, Tom Watson, Curtis Strange and Larry Nelson, who all took 70 on Thursday.

Floyd eased his way to the front only 14 months after becoming the oldest player in the history of the game to win the US Open Championship. He was 43 years and eight months old when he put together a final round of 66 to win the title at Shinnecock Hills.

Floyd won his first US Tour event in 1963 since when he has triumphed on 21 occasions on the circuit as well as winning the Million Dollar

Classic in 1982. His victories include the US PGA Championship in 1969, the US Masters in 1976 and the US Open Championship again in 1982 when he was one month away from celebrating his fortieth birthday.

In fact the US PGA Championship has on several occasions been developed into a trip down memory lane. Jack Nicklaus won the title for a fifth time in 1980 after some eighth months after his fortieth birthday in 1984 Lee Trevino, then aged 44, edged out the ever-green Gary Player and one year later it was the turn of Hubert Green, aged 38, to move past Trevino.

EARLY SECOND-ROUND LEADING SCORES (US unless stated): 1. R. Floyd 70, 70, 141; 2. S. Simpson, 71, 70, 142; 3. Ballesteros (Sp), 72, 70; 4. Crenshaw, 72, 71, 143; 5. Watson, 72, 70, 143; 6. Langer, 71, 72, 143; 7. Nelson, 72, 70, 143; 8. Mize, 72, 71, 143; 9. Faldo, 73, 72, 145; 10. Norman, 73, 72, 146; 11. Stricker, 74, 72; 12. J. Cook, 75, 70, 145; 13. M. Nelson, 74, 72; 14. O'Grady, 75, 70, 145; 15. T. Tom, 75, 70, 145; 16. G. Norman, 76, 70, 146.

Jarrett underlines Britain's short-distance eminence

By Pat Butcher, Athletics Correspondent

Anthony Jarrett fulfilled all the expectations inherent in his winning the United Kingdom senior title in May when he won the European junior high hurdles in 13.72sec in Birmingham yesterday.

Like Jamie Henderson's win in the 100 metres the previous day, Jarrett is consolidating a recent phenomenon in British athletics, a Harrier nation becoming dominant in sprints and hurdles.

Henderson was the third successive British winner of the short sprint, and Jarrett followed Jon Ridgeon and Colin Jackson, who won the world junior event last year, to the title.

But Jarrett's victory was not without trepidation. He maintained afterwards that he had never been headed in the race, following an impressive semi-final victory. But Florian Schwarhoff certainly gave him a hard time. At 6ft 7in, the West German is the tallest hurdler in the world. But his height did not affect his coordination until he had tracked Jarrett across the 10

barriers. Then Schwarhoff stumbled and gave Jarrett a free passage to the line, while he fell through it, and beat the track in frustration.

But he was not going to catch Jarrett, who, but for a hamstring injury four weeks ago, might have improved rather than equalled his personal best. Paul Gray underlined Britain's current pre-eminence when he finished third in 14.16sec.

The 400 and 800-metre men look to have more prospects for medals today. Peter Crampton won his one lap semi-final in 47.93sec, the second fastest of the day, while Gary Patterson qualified in the second race, in 48.37sec. And both Johan Boakes and Kevin McKay looked very comfortable in qualifying for the 800 metres final.

It now looks as if both Steve Cram and Steve Ovett will compete in Koblenz next Thursday, the night before the Miller Lite/IAC meeting in London. David Bedford, the IAC chairman, had given priority to the British meeting.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Kennedy pays price

The Football Association has imposed the biggest individual fine of £5,000 on Mick Kennedy, of Portsmouth, for bringing the game into disrepute in newspaper articles claiming that he "took no prisoners" and accused top players of being "chicken". Kennedy must pay £3,000 immediately and has £2,000 suspended for two years.

Charity gear

The Tour de France bicycle of Stephen Roche, the first Irish winner, will be auctioned this weekend to aid a hospice.

Bates beaten

Jeremy Bates, the British No. 2 was defeated 7-6, 3-6, 6-1 by Nick Fulwood in the semi-finals of the Charlie Brown's likely Open tennis championship.



Kennedy: £5,000 fine

Hearns target

Thomas Hearns, of the United States, has relinquished his World Boxing Council lightweight championship in order to become the first winner of four titles when he fights Juan Domingo Roldan for the vacant WBC middleweight title on October 29 in Las Vegas.

Title chances

Dave McAuley, the British flyweight champion, has been given the right to challenge Duke McKenzie and Salvatore Curciotti, of Italy, must defend against Najib Daho, the British super-featherweight champion, the European Boxing Union decided yesterday.

Bon Bombini

Emanuele Bombini, of Italy, rode to a solo victory yesterday in the second stage of the Waimoa, Hawaii, in the Coors International cycle classic. Results, page 36

Kiwis hold daunting advantage

By Barry Pickthall

Britain's three-boat Admiral's Cup team set out today from Cowes on the 605-mile Fastnet race facing the Herculean task of overcoming the daunting 109-point lead held by the New Zealanders.

In effect, the James Capel British team, made up of Graham Walker's Indulgence, the Alan Gray-owned Jamarella and Mike Peacock's Juno, have to beat their New Zealand counterparts by a total of 22 places to secure the trophy that has eluded them for the past six years.

Nothing is impossible as previous Fastnet races have proved, but with Bevan Woolley's Propaganda leading the individual points scores, followed by Kiwi, skipped by Peter Walker, fifth, and Goldcorp, the Rick Dodson-skipped One-tonner, seventh, the New Zealanders have their tails up and will be difficult to beat.

Americans all at sea, page 36

Maradona's arrival ends doubts

Diego Maradona finally ended weeks of speculation by arriving in a private jet last night at Stansted Airport in time for today's Wembley showpiece (Ian Stafford writes).

Maradona had been uncertain of playing from the moment the game, to celebrate the Football League's centenary, was first devised, but with the Argentinian's presence confirmed, Terry Venables, the manager of the select World XI to face Bobby Robson's Football League team, said: "I want him to play as he did in the World Cup. Watching him gave me goose bumps."

On arriving, Maradona left immediately to stay in a private hotel, away from his team colleagues to prepare for a game the Football League, Wembley Stadium, this country and half the world have waited for him to play. Preview, page 36.

END COLUMN

League's super begging bowl

By David Miller

It is revealing to reflect, when confronted with the child-like and tedious indecision by Maradona over the Football League centenary match today, that Ferenc Puskas, Jim Baxter and Uwe Seeler were delighted to come to Wembley in 1963 for the FA centenary... as reserves.

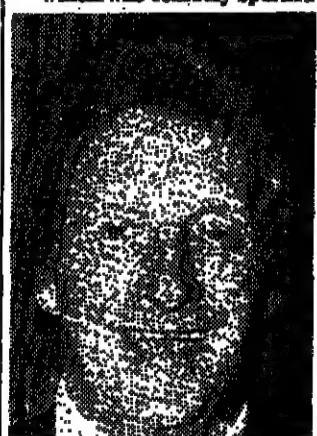
In a World XI which included Yashin, Djokhar Santos, Schuster, Law, Di Stefano and Gento, the three came on as replacements for Eusebio, Masopust and Kopa. I do not recall O'Grady, the omniscient Austrian wing half, Kubala and Nordahl, great players of their time, demanding money to play for the Rest of the World on England's nineteenth anniversary.

It would be hard to imagine an historic celebration more clumsily handled than that which should have been a dignified moment for the oldest of leagues. The nonsensical pleadings with Maradona have only served to convince a public, already sceptical about greedy footballers, that the match is not worth watching unless he is playing.

The League should have had the propriety to resist begging with Maradona's agent, offering an inflated fee. With Martin, Lindeker, Futre, that meteor of the European Cup Final, Belanov and Elkjaer on view, Maradona is not indispensable.

Sadly, the League, with so much prestige going for them, have handled the event like the opening of some supermarket. In a sign of the times, they have been preoccupied with "marketing" the event, to overseas television and to the public, scuffling to sell tickets for last night's dinner.

Wimbledon marked its centenary with a parade of past champions from Perry to Ashe — which was coarsely spurned



Law: legendary figure

by Connors — while the Rugby League, for its fiftieth Wembley Cup Final two years ago, invited back 50 of its former heroes, Billy Boston, Gus Risman, Alamy Murphy and the rest.

Have football administrators all sense of style? With the bribe they are offering Maradona they could instead have staged, rather than the under-16 curtain-raiser against Denmark, a veterans' match between representatives of the famous European Cup teams of the 1970s.

Why not have had a roll-call on the pitch of the legendary figures of the League's past: Matthews, Carter, Callis and Mercer from before the war, Carey, Wright, Bobby Charlton and Blanchflower, Moore, Law, Greaves and a host of others?

If tickets were going slowly, why not, in addition to the half-price concession (ending yesterday) to schoolchildren, have offered a fourth ticket free to families buying three, seeing that League football so badly needs to regain family confidence.

My enduring memory as a teenager is of having seen the brilliance in 1953 of Czarowski, Boniperti, Kubala and Nordahl, just before the avalanche of the Hungarians changed our perspective.

I keep reading now about how ticket sales are flagging, or what somebody's agent has said. I would prefer to have heard how Bobby Robson and Terry Venables, today's managers, intended to play with two wingers either side of two central attackers, with three in midfield and only three defenders.

The advantage which the Football League, for all its administrative myopia over the years, still has over almost the whole of world football, other than maybe Brazil, is that it is renowned for its weekly action. That is why television stations in Scandinavia, Australia, Thailand and Hong Kong remain regular customers.

The most significant contribution which Robson and Venables could make to the reputation of the most famous league would be to provide a global audience this afternoon with football free of the inhibitions of fear.

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